



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 29, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. HRANT BAGRATIAN DOES NOT EXCLUDE AGGRAVATION OF SOCIAL CONDITION IN ARMENIA AFTER YEREVAN COUNCIL OF ELDERS ELECTIONS [Aravot, 05/27/09]

Former RA Prime Minister, head of the Liberty party Hrant Bagratian does not exclude that the social situation in Armenia will aggravate after Yerevan Council of Elders elections. Reporting this at the May 26 press conference, he said that people apply to the Armenian National Congress office saying that indeed they do not receive salary, but have to sign under respective documents.

Saying that the information sphere is currently more closed than in the 30-s, H. Bagratian said: "They have gathered, with their television, their ministers, their deputies and try by all means to present and to convince that it is the life, it is Armenia." According to him, "we know what will happen on May 31," and a question emerges: what will happen on June 1, after the elections?

2. VIGEN CHITECHIAN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF ARMENIA TO FRANCE [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 05/27/09]

Under RA President's May 26 decree Vigen Chitechian was relieved of the post of RA Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Belgium and head of Armenia's representation in the European Union.

According to the RA President's Press Office, under President's another decree of the same day Vigen Chitechian was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to France (residence Paris).

3. FIRST AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL COMPLETES HER DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

On May 26, RA President Serzh Sargsyan received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brazil to Armenia Renate Stille on the occasion of completing her diplomatic mission in Armenia. S. Sargsyan thanked the Ambassador for her work and said that Armenia attaches much importance to development of relations with Brazil.

R. Stille, in her turn, said that during her three-year activity she tried to bring closer and develop the two countries' relations as far as possible.

According to the report of the RA President's Press Office, the sides attached importance to activation of political dialogue, expansion of economic cooperation considering very important Brazilian Armenian community's role in the bilateral relations. They agreed that opening of Embassy of Armenia in Brazil by the end of the year will be a serious ground and stimulus for deepening cooperation between the two states and peoples.

4. AVET ADONTS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF ARMENIA TO BELGIUM [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

Under RA President's May 26 decree Avet Adonts was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to Belgium (residence Brussels).

According to the RA President's Press Office, under President's May 27 decree Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to Belgium Avet Adonts was also pluralistically appointed head of Armenia's representation in the European Union (residence Brussels).

5. HISTORIAN ASHOT MELKONIAN: ALL ARMENIANS SHOULD STRIVE FOR CREATING UNITED HOMELAND [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

State independence is the guarantee of any nation's future. Ashot Melkonian, a historian, the Director of the History Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, expressed such an opinion at the May 27 press conference estimating the significance of independence the Armenian people achieved on May 28, 1918. According to him, though after the fall of Kilikia the Armenians for the first time



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achieved independence in 1918, nevertheless after 1043 there were "some functions of a state" among the Armenians. Touching upon the heroic fights of Sardarapat and Gharakilisa, A. Melkonian said that Armenian regular detachments including seven thousand soldiers proved to the world that an Armenian can be a good soldier.

According to A. Melkonian, the facts that historic Armenia was divided between two different superpowers for several times left a negative trace on Armenian people's psychology, and the Eastern and Western Armenias were formed as a result of it. Those two Armenias, according to the historian, were turned into political notions in the course of time, which is very painful. In A. Melkonian's words, all Armenians should strive for creating a united homeland pursuing solution of the Armenian Cause (Hay Dat). As to Armenian-Turkish relations and recognition of the Armenian Genocide, they are not purely the problems of the Republic of Armenia, but of all Armenians. "From Eastern Armenia one should not speak and make decisions on Western Armenia, as it is up to the Diaspora to say the final word," A. Melkonian said. According to him, it is time for formation of RA plenipotentiary bodies in RA that will attend to all-national issues.

6. YAROSLAVL AND ARMAVIR HAVE GREAT POSSIBILITIES AND HUGE POTENTIAL OF EXPANDING COOPERATION [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

On May 27, RA President Serzh Sargsyan received Governor of RF Yaroslavl region Sergey Vakhrukov.

Expressing satisfaction with dynamically developing cooperation between Armenia and Russia in various spheres, S. Sargsyan emphasized the importance of strengthening direct contacts between the two countries' regions and expansion of cooperation. He welcomed S. Vakhrukov's initiative of creating conditions for business contacts between Armenia and Yaroslavl region and considered it important to unite the sides' economic potential to make clear the directions in which they can be represented on each other's markets.

It should be mentioned that an agreement on cooperation in trade and economic, scientific-technical, and cultural spheres was signed between Armavir administration and Yaroslavl region administration during RF President Dmitry Medvedev's official visit to Armenia in 2008 October. S. Vakhrukov said that Yaroslavl and Armavir actively cooperate and have great possibilities and huge potential for expanding that cooperation. And representations will be opened in the two regions for that purpose that would become effective means for information exchange, clarification of cooperation directions.

According to the RA President's Press Office, S. Vakhrukov also said that the Armenian community of Yaroslavl has a great authority and many Armenian businessmen implement serious programs in the region.

7. ACCORDING TO HISTORY INSTITUTE DIRECTOR, ARMENIA SHOULD CLARIFY RUSSIA'S ATTITUDE TO ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

"We wonder who is behind the Armenian-Turkish flirt, whether Russia or the U.S.," Ashot Melkonian, the Director of the History Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, stated at the May 27 press conference. According to him, Armenia should clarify from its strategic ally Russia what is the latter's attitude to Armenian-Turkish relations. A. Melkonian said that he is concerned with his talk with a Russian serviceman. According to the historian, that serviceman told him that if the Turks attack Armenia from the side of Yeraskh, the Russian border-guards should withdraw up to Artashat.

8. IF FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE'S MISSION FAILS, ZHARANGUTIUN TO ASSUME IT [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

If the activity of the experts' fact-finding committee on study of the March 1 events fails, Zharangutiun (Heritage) party will continue that work. As RA NA Zharangutiun faction head Armen Martirosian stated on May 27, the party has proper political will for it.

In his words, in spite of many obstacles faced by the fact-finding committee, committee's activity can be assessed as positive, as it did much work, in particular, disclosed the death circumstances of Police officer Hamlet Tadevosian.

Touching upon committee head Vahe Stepanian's resignation and his statement that he tried to counteract to divergencies between pro-governmental and opposition representatives, A. Martirosian said that if the authorities wished it the cases would have been disclosed. It means that power representatives'



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goal in the committee was to hinder that disclosure, which called forth the divergencies. "That is why the authorities try to suspend fact-finding committee's work," A. Martirosian said.

According to A. Martirosian, if fact-finding committee's activity is suspended, the Zharangutiun representative will publicize all facts disclosed by the committee. He reminded that according to RA President's order on creating the fact-finding committee, committee's facts are considered secret until the end of committee's activity.

9. RA OMBUDSMAN LOOKS FOR GLADIATOR TO SEND HIM TO FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE [Azg, 05/27/09]

If Vahe Stepanian, the head of the RA Ombudsman's office staff, leaves the fact-finding committee on study of the March 1-2 events, the Ombudsman will introduce his new representative. RA Ombudsman Armen Haroutiunian reported on May 27, in his interview to journalists. "However, I am already looking for a gladiator to work with them," the Ombudsman said mentioning that the atmosphere in the committee is strained.

A. Haroutiunian regretted to say that in its time when he reported about the pressures upon witnesses on the March 1 cases, he was told that it is not grounded. According to the Ombudsman, if in its time the Prosecutor's Office and the Special Investigation Service responded properly, "we would not appear in this situation today."

10. PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN ADDRESSES CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE REPUBLIC DAY [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan addressed Armenians on the occasion of the Republic Day. Presidential press service told Armenpress that the message of the President runs as follows:

"Dear Compatriots:

I congratulate us all on the occasion of Republic Day.

May 28, 1918 crowned the centuries-long struggle of the Armenian people. Our people who had gone through foreign oppression, brutal exploitation, racial and religious discrimination, persecutions, massacres and, ultimately, genocide finally assumed responsibility – responsibility for our own destiny, assumed responsibility before the world and before history. It was a moment when many thought that Armenia and the Armenian people would never recover after those heavy blows they suffered. But a new nation of survivors and a new state had emerged from the ruins of two perished empires. Triumphs of May 1918 were revealing stories of our people's adamant will, unwavering desire to be free, and boundless faith in the Armenian future. Victories of May are among the most shining examples of our unconditional national unity, and I am confident those victories will continue to be the inspiration for many generations as they were for our generation in the struggle for Artsakh's freedom.

Statehood is the ultimate form of association for any people. Theoretically it is a well-known fact; however that theory had acquired flesh and blood through the toiling of the best sons and daughters of the Armenian nation, through their determination and knowledge, boundless devotion and even through their lives. Irrespective of the achievements and failures of the Republic of Armenia's the two and a half years of existence one thing is clear: she became the anchor for the today's Armenia, whose proud citizens we are honored to be.

Modern Armenia is the heir of millennia-long cultural, historical and spiritual achievements which had been created and passed on to us by our predecessors. But Armenia is also a country which belongs to the 21st century, which deals with contemporary challenges and charts her political course with a steady look into the future. In that future we see Armenia as a safe and secure state, as a state of political liberties, as a state of economic development, as a state where science is of international level, as a state which exists in a peaceful and stable region. Probably today all these sounds like a dream, but not to believe in and not to take steps toward such a future means fail to believe in the triumph of righteousness and justice, fail to believe in the eternity of the Armenian nation.

On this glorious day I wish we bow not only to the memory of the heroes of Sardarapat, Bash-Aparan, Gharakilis, not only take pride in the deeds of the founders but also ponder on what worthy work we are going to present to the test of the future generations.

May 28 proves that we, as a nation, are able to set formidable goals and achieve them together, as a nation. It requires collective efforts, internal accord, mutual respect, generosity of spirit and tolerance. Regrettably, sometime we fail to be that way.

For our nation 1918-1920 were the years of national rebirth, outburst of its creative forces and abilities, realization of the right to be free and independent. The young state had failed but through its



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existence and its demise was able to send serious messages to all succeeding generations of the Armenians. Brief history of the Republic of Armenia even today reminds us that we must reject utterly internal animosity which is wearing out our unity and view the intolerance as evil. The Government of the First Armenian Republic was working hard to prevent the breakup of the Armenian society on ideological or class grounds. Unfortunately, it was not prevented. Seeds of resentment, acrimony and discord bore bitter fruits.

Have we learned that lesson well enough? I would say no, regrettably, no. The events of March 1 would suffice to prove that we still have much to do in learning the lessons of the past. These events, which became our common pain, proved that in our days too a situation can emerge when everybody loses, when unity and kindness lose too, when bitterness and intolerance win and emotions reign.

At some point it is essential to stop.

At some point it is essential to open a new page.

This is what the lessons of the past teach; this is what the future of our country demands.

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Today is a great day. I once again congratulate all of us on the occasion of Republic Day and I wish us all peaceful skies, happiness, success and new achievements for the glory of our Motherland and our People.

11. BAKO SAHAKYAN ADDRESSES CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE REPUBLIC DAY [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

President of Nagorno Karabakh Bako Sahakyan addresses a message in connection with the Day of Republic. NKR Presidential press office told Armenpress that the message of the NKR president says:

“Dear compatriots,

I congratulate you on the day of the First Armenian Republic.

This is a festive day for the entire Armenian people in Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora. And everybody must remember the token of that day. It is the victory of cohesion and united will of our people. It is also due to the heroic examples of Sardarapat, Bash-Aparan, Karakilisa that we could gain victory in the Artsakh war and today we live and create in a free and independent land and have day after day flourishing and developing Republic of Armenia and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

We should realize the price of these victories and cherish it as the apple of an eye. Let us preserve and build our country together, spare no efforts to strengthen the Armenian statehood and handover to the generations to come a powerful and thriving Motherland - the dream of all Armenians. Dear compatriots, I congratulate you on this invaluable and memorable day once again and wish you new victories and success in glory of the Armenian nations, its bright and radiant future.”

12. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER TIGRAN SARGSIAN'S MESSAGE ON THE DAY OF REPUBLIC [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan made a congratulatory address on the Day of Republic.

Public relations department of Armenian government told Armenpress that the message says:

“Dear compatriots, I congratulate you on the 91st anniversary of the Day of first Armenian Republic. The 1918 May heroic battles in Sardarapat, Bash-Aparan and Gharakilisa after years of pause have again been appreciated with the establishment of Armenian independent statehood.

The first republic grew in virtue of unprecedented outburst of firm will, unity and purposefulness of Armenian nation, qualities which also arouse during the Artsakh heroic battle.

The victories reached in the battlefield restored our belief towards our own forces and our nation is ready to more strengthen its independent statehood, overcome the modern challenges to ensure the future of our generations be more welfare.

On the eve of May 28 holiday I once more congratulate to all of us, wishing strong health, peace and sustainable belief towards the Armenian nation and the future of Armenian statehood”.



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13. S. SARGSYAN: "AS THE PRESIDENT OF ARMENIA I REGARD THE ELECTIONS AS A PROCESS WHICH MUST PASS ONLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF LAW AND LEGALITY" [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

"Last time in our republic amnesty was applied in 2006. And if during these three years an idea, necessity of announcing a new amnesty grew in the society I am ready to make use of my constitutional right. Therefore I urge all the political powers, public figures and the public council to present their proposals on the necessity and conditions of amnesty to the Presidential office and if as a result it becomes clear that there is such a wish in the society I will immediately make use of my constitutional right and apply to the National Assembly to adopt a law," in response to the questions of journalists in the Sardarapat memorial complex the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said.

The Armenian President assesses the process of electoral campaign as normal, well.

"I consider the political powers had equal opportunities to freely speak about their programs, their concept for the development of Yerevan with the voters – Yerevan residents. I think the TV channels could in an equal and unbiased way to highlight the activity of political powers.

I am glad that different political powers implemented different pre-election maneuvers – from meetings and marches to yard gatherings and walking round house by house. My claim, my address and request to the political powers is not to create additional tension, continue this way and wrap up their pre-election campaign, pre-election activity and hold democratic elections on May 31, elections which can become bases for our population and the international institutions to say that these were the best elections in the republic of Armenia," Armenian President S. Sargsyan said.

14. NINO BURJANADZE APOLOGIZES TO BAKU AND YEREVAN FOR "CAUSED INCONVENIENCES" [Azg, 05/28/09]

Former Speaker of Georgian Parliament, leader of "Democratic movement – United Georgia" party Nino Burjanadze apologized to Armenian and Azerbaijani people for the May 26 blockade of the railroad.

"We understand that with it we have harmed our neighbors but we had no other way, we had no other means," during today's demonstration in front of Tbilisi municipality building, where several hundreds of representatives of the opposition gathered, N. Burjanadze stated.

Burjanadze said that after resignation of Sahakashvili a closer cooperation will be established with Armenia and Azerbaijan while "the regime of Sahakashvili is a great danger for them".

15. ISSUE OF PERSON TO REPLACE AVET ADONTS AT RA PARLIAMENT TO BE DISCUSSED AFTER YEREVAN COUNCIL OF ELDERS ELECTIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/28/09]

Avet Adonts appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to Belgium and pluralistically head of Armenia's representation in the European Union will stop his deputy powers ahead of the schedule. Thus not only the deputy mandate, but also the post of Chairman of NA Standing Committee on European Integration taken by him will be vacant.

As A. Adonts was elected a deputy in 2007 by the proportional electoral system, by Bargavach Hayastan party's electoral roll, according to the Electoral Code, his vacant mandate will be given to the next candidate on the list. As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by BH faction member Naira Zohrabian, to all appearances, the party Board will discuss the issue of person to be included in the faction, as well as the candidate to be nominated for Committee Chairman's post and the person to replace A. Adonts in the Armenian delegation of PACE after Yerevan Council of Elders elections to be held on May 31.

16. ARFD CALLS ARMENIAN PRESIDENT FOR STOPPING "FOOTBALL DIPLOMACY" [Yerkir, 05/28/09]

ARFD calls RA President Serzh Sargsyan for stopping "football diplomacy" carried on towards Turkey. ARFD Armenian Supreme Body representative Armen Rustamian stated at the May 27 concluding preelection rally. According to ARFD members, the process launched after Turkish President Abdullah Gul's visit to Yerevan "did not lead Armenians to anything good." "Today the danger is indeed serious, but Dashnaktsutun cannot overcome it on its own," A. Rustamian said. According to him, ARFD needs a new vote of confidence, which it expects to receive in Yerevan Council of Elders elections.



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ARFD Bureau member Aghvan Vardanian, in his turn, stated that though the other day the RA Prime Minister called Armenia's citizens for spending their summer holidays in Armenia, large advertisement boards offering people to have a rest in Turkey in summer have appeared in Yerevan. "Has current Mayor seen these boards?," A. Vardanian asked adding that for sure there are no Armenian advertisement boards in Istanbul.

Touching upon the home political situation, the ARFD Bureau member predicted that if radical opposition forces assume Yerevan government they will again clash with the central power, which will destabilize the situation in the country. While ARFD, in A. Vardanian's conviction, should receive its votes to have its unique place in case of new rearrangement of political forces. "No new political system can be formed without ARFD," he said.

17. ARMENIANS OF SWEDEN CONSIDER GROUNDLESS SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSERTION THAT BY RECOGNITION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE SWEDEN WILL DAMAGE ARMENIAN-TURKISH DIALOGUE [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/28/09]

The Swedish press touched upon the recent statement of Swedish Foreign Minister in connection with denial of the Armenian Genocide and the strict counteraction of the Union of Armenian Associations in Sweden. Marmara reported this referring to the Asbarez newspaper of Los Angeles.

It is known that Foreign Minister of Sweden Carl Bildt answering questions had stated that examining political issues is not the duty of political figures.

Condemning that passive position, the Union of Armenian Associations in Sweden stressed that political figures do not need to discuss this issue, as the International Association of Genocide Scholars has already confirmed the fact of Armenian Genocide and added that besides being a historic issue the Armenian Genocide is rather an international crime that should be punished in accordance with the UN agreements, under which, by the way, the government of Sweden has also signed.

The Union also considered groundless Minister's assertion that recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Sweden can damage the Armenian-Turkish efforts of launching negotiations.

18. OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS TO ARRIVE TODAY IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs Yuri Merzlyakov (Russia), Bernard Fassier (France) and Matthew Bryza (USA) will today evening arrive in Yerevan.

Spokesman of the Armenian Foreign Ministry Tigran Balayan told Armenpress that the meetings of co-chairs with the Armenian authorities are scheduled for May 30.

An official from the USA Embassy to Armenia told Armenpress that the co-chairs are today in Baku. They arrived in Yerevan on May 28 to leave for Stepanakert but the bad weather conditions did not give opportunity for the flight. The American co-chairman Matthew Bryza will leave for Moscow May 30 and on May 31 again depart to Baku.

The visit of co-chairs aims at preparing the possible meeting of Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents intended for the beginning of June in Saint Petersburg.

19. A. VAROUDAKIS SAYS THE ANTI-CRISIS EVENTS OF ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THEIR SIGNIFICANT RESULT [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

The World Bank is hopeful that the anti-crisis events having been and to be implemented by the Armenian Government will have their significant result, and the negative impact of the crisis on the economy will be reduced, the head of Armenian office of WB Aristomene Varoudakis said during today's "Development of Rural Communities in Armenia" third annual conference which was organized in the American University of Armenia.

According to him, the notable positive changes in the Armenian economy are intended already for this autumn. He said that like in all the states the Armenian economy also bares the heavy results of the crisis. Armenia has suffered in a range of directions – the export markets have reduced, prices for copper and molybdenum which are the main products of export have decreased. The money transfers from abroad especially from Russia have decreased and direct investments – reduced.

A. Varoudakis said that as a result of ongoing shakes during the first months of this year the Armenian economy has reduced for nearly 10% and the difficulties in tax revenue gathering has made the implementation of budget difficult.

"The Armenian Government implements a whole arsenal of mechanisms to overcome the results of the crisis. Particularly financial means from international institutions have been involved, state



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investment projects are being implemented, a great attention is paid on crediting of small and medium-sized enterprises, etc. There is a hope that all these will result in certain improvement to ensure the descent tendencies are overturned and at the beginning of next year – somehow improved.

In spite of the heavy condition and tenseness the Armenian Government continues the uninterrupted implementation of social expenditures and its projects towards the improvement of educational qualities, information technologies and a number of other directions to ensure the establishment of knowledge-based economy in Armenia,” A. Varoudakis noted.

He also presented the main spheres of support financed in Armenia by the WB and underscored that this international institution will continue to actively cooperate with Armenia and is going to initiate new projects directed towards increasing the compatibility of the economy, improvement of infrastructures and life level.

20. ISSUES CONNECTED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ARMENIA AND ISRAEL, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

Delegation headed by the Deputy Armenian Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosian visited Israel May 26-27 to have plenary consultations with the Foreign Ministry of this state.

Media relations department of Armenia Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that during the meetings held with the Deputy Israeli Foreign Ministry Daniel Ayalon and other high ranking diplomats issues connected with the development of relations between the two states, international and regional affairs have been discussed.

The Armenian delegation had meetings in the Israeli Parliament – Knesset, particularly they met with the chairperson of Israel-Armenia inter-parliamentary relation group Zeev Elkin.

The delegation also visited the Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate spoke with the Patriarch archbishop Torgom Manoukian.

21. ISSUES CONNECTED WITH ARMENIAN-GERMAN RELATIONS DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

Secretary of National Security Council Arthur Baghdasaryan received today Professor, Honorary Judge, retired Judge of the German Constitutional Court Hans-Joachim Jenich.

Press office of the National Security Council told Armenpress that the interlocutors discussed issues connected with Armenian-German relations. A. Baghdasaryan noted that Germany has provided great support to Armenia in the issue of legal reforms and the cooperation in this direction is necessary to be continued.

He informed that according to the 2009-2011 plan of actions ensuring the implementation of Armenia-EU plan of actions of European Neighborhood Policy nearly 200 reforms are intended in Armenia which also involve the legal sphere.

The sides also referred to the issue of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations.

22. SARGIS SAHAKIAN APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF ARAGATSOTN PROVINCE [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

During today's session of Armenian Government Sargis Sahakyan, who was formerly deputy Governor, has been appointed Governor of Aragatsotn province.

According to Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, S. Sahakyan is experienced and keeps the situation under control.

“We are sure that he will be able to implement his obligations as a governor,” T. Sargsyan said.

23. PETER SEMNEBY SAYS EUROPEAN UNION IS READY TO ASSIST THE OSCE MINSK GROUP [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

EU Special representative to the South Caucasus Peter Semneby stated that the EU supports the OSCE Minsk Group efforts exerted towards the Karabakh conflict regulation and is ready to provide necessary assistance, the OSCE press release says.

“The European Union is ready to support and provide any necessary assistance, particularly through promotion of our efforts to encourage the events of consolidation of trust and intercourse between the sides,” Semneby said delivering speech during the session of OSCE Permanent council.



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BUSINESS

24. HEAD OF ARMENIAN CENTRAL BANK TO TAKE PART IN THE 21ST SESSION OF HEADS OF CENTRAL BANKS OF MIDDLE ASIA, BLACK SEA REGION AND BALKAN STATES [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

Head of Armenian Central Bank Arthur Javadyan will take part in the 21st session of the club of heads of central banks of Middle Asia, Black Sea region and Balkan states which will take place May 28-31 in Astana.

Public relations service of the Central Bank told Armenpress that the themes to be discussed during the session of heads of CBs are: "Global theory of economy and finances: issues face by the developing states", "Epoch of regress of actives: what lessons the USA, Europe and China can pick up from the 1995-2005 Japan experience" and "The monetary credit policy in the conditions of unstableness".

During the session assistant to the head of International Monetary Fund Takatosi Kato, senior economist of Nomura Research Institute Richard Ku and Professor of economy of Columbia University Guillermo Calvo will deliver speeches.

25. "DigiTech" BUSINESS FORUM TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

Under the high patronage of Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, "DigiTech" business forum will be held June 19-20 in Yerevan.

Executive director of Union of IT Enterprises Karen Vardanyan told Armenpress that the forum objectives are to present the IT solutions to the business to make them more applicable.

Responsible for implementation of IT technologies and solution providers of different companies will be invited. Biggest IT enterprises will present their best solutions, exhibitions and discussions will be organized.

"Our main task is to ensure extended implementation of information technologies in other spheres of Armenia; in this respect we are in 114th place in the world. We aim to promote the applying of high technologies in the business management and increasing of efficiency," K. Vardanyan said.

Within the frameworks of "DigiTech" the "Microsoft" will hold its innovation conference.

"The Union objectives are within 10 years to make Armenia become one of the leading countries which offer IT products but a more serious progress is necessary to gain this aim," K. Vardanyan noted.

According to him the world financial crisis had a greater impact on those IT companies which serve spheres most affected by the crisis – banking, construction.

K. Vardanyan noted that the IT companies can come out of the crisis as winners.

"It will be more positive as the IT enterprises have no other way rather than strengthening the positive," he said.

26. ALL TYPES OF INSPECTORIAL CHECKS IN THE ARMENIAN SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES DURING 2009-2010 TO BE BANNED [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

On the Armenian President's assignments an unprecedented decision will be adopted during the session of Armenian Government today which aims at supporting the small and medium-sized business and creating a favorable environment for them.

During the discussion of the annual report "On the implementation of 2008 Armenian state budget" Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan informed about this.

According to this decision during 2009-2010 all types of inspectorial checks in the small and medium-sized enterprises will be forbidden.

"We are sure that suspension of checking by nearly 22 inspectorial bodies during the crisis will result in establishment of a favorable environment for the development of small and medium-sized business," the Armenian Prime Minister said.

27. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER ASSURES THAT THERE IS NO PRECONDITION FOR EXPENDITURES OF THE CREDIT EXPECTED FROM RUSSIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

Part of the 500 million USD intended from Russia will first of all be directed towards financing of this and next year's budget deficit. During today's session of Armenian Government the Prime Minister



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Tigran Sargsyan noted that at 12:00 o'clock June 2 the international agreement for getting credit from Russia will be ratified at the extraordinary session of Armenian Parliament.

The Prime Minister informed that from the credit means 24 billion drams will be provided to the construction in the disaster zone, 15 billion drams – to the National Center of Development of Small and Medium-sized business to enhance the opportunities of crediting of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Credits will also be provided to system-making businessmen if they have difficulties as a result of the crisis. T. Sargsyan stressed that a stabilization fund will be created inside the Central Bank which will provide means to the anti-crisis events.

The Prime Minister said that it is now very difficult to make any macroeconomic forecasts as the situation regularly changes. The fund will conduct economic surveys to ensure the state means reduce the consequences of crisis with a greater efficiency.

According to T. Sargsyan, this step will contribute to the increase of macroeconomic financial stability and create a favorable environment to have positive expectations.

He also stressed that the credit sums intended from Russia are free means and there is no precondition for their expenditure. He considered all the accusations that allegedly there are preconditions for spending these sums as absurd.

"There is no precondition. These sums will entirely be managed and directed towards the anti-crisis events," the Prime Minister said.

DIASPORA

28. SERGEI TUMAS HOLDS THEATRICAL EVENT IN U.S. [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

Producer, artistic director and choreographer Sergei Tumas will present "Tango Nuevo Cabaret" theatrical event, during which legendary Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla's avant-garde tango music will be presented. The concerts will take place on May 29 and 30 at Pasadena Civic Auditorium and on June 4 at Royce Hall in UCLA.

29. LITTLE ARMENIA TO BECOME BRAND [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

Los Angeles' LAist blog reported that Little Armenia business owners want it to become a strong brand. The Little Armenia Chamber of Commerce announced that there would be signs on the 101 Freeway near the Sunset Blvd., which would show the district's location. One of the two other major improvements to the area is an Armenian Gateway Monument Installation and the other is the formation of business (business improvement district, BID) along Sunset between Edgemont and Wilton. BID plan includes security, better street maintenance, some steps towards the beautification of the district and homeless services coordination.

30. ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE IN LITTLE ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

California State Assembly member Kevin de Leon has joined LA City Council President Eric Garcetti along with a large list of elected officials who will co-sponsor the 4th Annual Armenian Independence Day Festival in Little Armenia. It will be held by Armenian community of Southern California. Among the distinguished politicians will be State Assembly members Paul Krekorian and Mike Feuer.

"Asparez" reports that the Festival will take place on Sunday, on Hollywood Boulevard, between Vermont and Alexandria streets. There will be a variety of cultural displays, musical and dance performances, traditional ethnic food, and vendors during the event. The festival will also have a kid's zone; there will be a little petting zoo, pony rides and various games. Harout Pamboukjian, Joseph Krikorian, Sahag Sisslian, Ara Shahbazian, Artin Bedrossian, Arno, Harout Hagopian and others will perform at the festival.



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ARTS

31. CHEERFUL EVENT "EVERYTHING FOR CHILDREN" TO BE ORGANIZED JUNE 1 IN THE NA PARK [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

According to the established tradition on June 1 the doors of the park of the National Assembly will again be open. Public relations department of Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that in connection with the International Day of Protection of Children cheerful event will be organized for children in the territory of Armenian Parliament.

The NA has prepared numerous surprises during the event held under the "Everything for children" slogan.

At the same time a Holiday concert will be conducted during which the beloved Armenian pop singers will sing.

At 18:00 o'clock June 1 everyone are invited to the NA park.

32. "WORLD OF CHILDHOOD EXPO 2009" OPENS IN THE MOSCOW HOUSE OF YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

International third specialized exhibition "World of Childhood EXPO 2009" opened today in the Moscow House business-cultural center of Yerevan. 42 companies took part in it presenting goods for children – cloths, shoes, toys, bicycle, furniture, food, hygiene as well as games, books, video materials and other accessories which develop the abilities of the child.

Executive director of "LOGOS EXPO" center Ara Stepanian said that the exhibition aims to foster the development of this sphere, involve qualified specialists as well as to enrich the Armenian market with types of products intended for the children.

"Our task is to provide the young generations with qualified goods and food. The issue must always be under the limelight of the state, as how much our today's children are educated and developed the better authorities we will have in the future," he said.

Stressing the importance of conduction of such events in Armenia the head of the Family and Children's affairs department of Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Ministry Lala Ghazariants noted that today's exhibition proves that from the very first day of establishment of the state children were on the spot of state's attention.

Children from Gyumri, Gavar and Yerevan "Zatik" orphanages also took part in the exhibition, who presented their handworks – paintings, flower bouquets, needlework, etc.

The "World of Children EXPO 2009" will be open by June 1.

RELIGION

33. CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS RECEIVES NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 05/28/09]

On May 27, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II received newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Norway to Armenia Knut Houg (residence Moscow). According to the report of the Information Services of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, His Holliness the Patriarch in the person of the Ambassador thanked the Norwegian people for assistance and support to the Armenian people in the difficult times of Armenian history.

SOCIAL

34. FORMER RA PROSECUTOR GENERAL HENRIK KHACHATRIAN'S 70TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY MARKED IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/27/09]

The 70th birth anniversary of former RA Prosecutor General Henrik Khachatrian was marked at the RA Constitutional Court. In their speeches CC Chairman Gagik Haroutiunian, RA Ombudsman Armen Haroutiunian, RA Deputy Prosecutor General Mnatsakan Sargsian, Dean of Yerevan State University Law Department Gagik Ghazinian characterized H. Khachatrian as a talented scientist, gifted pedagogue and statesman. Henrik Khachatrian's jubilee was also marked at Yerevan Davitashen community's school N 199, which is named after him.



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H. Khachatryan is the author of 20 books and nearly 100 scientific articles. Many researches dedicated to newly independent Armenia's state-legal status and development tendencies were conducted under his leadership. He made a contribution to creation of both new laws and the first RA Constitution. According to his colleagues, as a member of the Constitutional Court he spared no effort in the issue of full establishment of that important institution building the new statehood.

35. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES THE STAFF OF "ARMENIA" SAILING VESSEL [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

The round-the-world sailing of "Armenia" sailing vessel kicks off May 28 from the Spanish Valencia town. During the tour which will last for nearly one year the "Armenia" sailing vessel will stop in five continents, will pass through waters of three oceans – Atlantic, Pacific and Indian, and will be in all those places where Armenian community exists.

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that before the tour the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received the members of staff of the sailing vessel. Noting that today most people may be suspicious whether such difficult tours are important in the 21st century when there no more exist close territories on the world map the President of the republic said:

"Our nation's fate arranged in a way that there are Armenians in all the sides of the world and the map of our national identity, the map of our cultural heritage and the map of history of Armenian communities are extremely important for us."

According to Serzh Sargsyan, the key objectives of this sailing are to newly discover the world and enrich it. "You are going to give a new charge and to convey the breath of the homeland to our communities, to give a new meaning to the formula of our identity and the cultural institutions spread in all the continents," S. Sargsyan underscored.

The Armenian President gave the state flag of Republic of Armenia to the staff of the sailing vessel: after their return the flag will according to the tradition be handed to the President.

President Sargsyan wished the members of the staff of the sailing vessel a favorable wind, successful sailing and secure return.

Writer-publicist Zori Balayan, who is a member of "Armenia" sailing vessel, expressed gratitude to the President and said that from time to time they will report on the course of the sailing.

36. THIS YEAR'S EXCAVATIONS OF ARTSAKH TIGRANAKERT TO KICK OFF JUNE 15 [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

This year's excavations of Artsakh Tigranakert town will kick off June 15 and last for 70 days.

Head of the Artsakh expedition of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of Armenian National Academy of Science Hamlet Petrosyan told Armenpress that the Nagorno Karabakh government has provided 35 million drams for these works.

Parallel to the excavations this year restoration of archeological materials is also intended to be conducted. As a result of conduction of excavations in such tempos nearly 20% of archeological constructions of the town will be opened already this year. Particularly the central part of the citadel gates, a part of basilica church are intended to be opened and the mausoleum field - found.

According to H. Petrosyan, the first volume of the book on Tigranakert excavations is also intended to be published by the end of the year.

Tigranakert big town established by the Armenian King Tigran II the Great in Artsakh was discovered by Armenian Archeologists in 2005. It is the only town which carries the name of Tigran the place of which is correctly discovered. As a result of the excavations the gates of town citadel, a part of Basilica church in the central district, the mountain dug bases of the fortified district and the wall of one of the terraces of the same district have already been opened.

Some sectors of Strengthened and Central districts, the worship cave complex nearby the town, the mountain dug water channel and the early middle-age castle on the left bank of Khachen River have also been studied.

The Tigranakert studies have been initiated and financed by the union of "Yerkir" NGOs of repatriation and establishment. The 2007 excavations are also financed by the Nagorno Karabakh authorities.



37. 54% OF MATURE MALES IN ARMENIA SMOKE [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

The “No Cigarette” day will be celebrated May 31 by the World Health Organization this year’s slogan of which will be “Let’s save lives by presenting the reality”.

Coordinator of “Fight against Cigarette” state project of the Armenian Health Ministry Alexander Bazarchian told Armenpress that at the beginning of this year an extended survey was conducted among 13-15 year-old people over the cigarette smoking, the result of which will be ready at the end of the year.

As a result of 2005 and 2007 purposed researches on smoking it has been found out that 54% of mature males in Armenia smoke. Though the index has a positive tendency during the latest years, it has been found out that especially middle-age males quit smoking only in case of some diseases.

The number of middle-age women who smoke cigarette is especially great in Yerevan. On the whole only 2-3% of smoking people of the republic are women.

According to the specialist the probability of cancer growth among the smokers is 20-30 times higher than among non-smokers. More than 1000 people annually die in Armenia of lung cancer.

According to WHO information, the cigarette is one of the first reasons of death cases in the world. In 2005 5.4 billion people died as a result of smoking, that’s to say 1 person died in each 6 seconds.

It is predicted that in 2030 the index will reach 8 billion. On average data, 29% of the world population smokes; 47.5% of men and 10.3% of women.

Nearly 80% of cigarette smokers live in low or medium income states. As a result of studies of specialists it has been found out that the cigarette smoke contains 4000 chemical agents which are dangerous for human health.

The secondary smoke of the cigarette can arouse cardiovascular diseases in the non-smoking human organism. According to WHO data the number of children who undergo secondary smoke of the cigarette reaches 700 million.

In the 20th century 100 million people died of cigarette. The number is predicted to reach 1 billion at the end of 21st century.

38. SWISS DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION OFFICE IMPLEMENTS “SOCIAL HOUSE ON SUPPORT CONDITIONS” PROJECT IN GORIS [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

Swiss Development and Cooperation office implements “Social house on the support conditions” project in Goris. It aims through new approaches to settle the housing issues of town’s socially insecure sections of population as well as develop the abilities of community authorities.

According to the project the apartments will be built with the support of donors, state institutions and businessmen and will be considered the property of community house. They will be provided to the people registered in the improvement of housing conditions lists, the number of which in Goris reaches 300. The residents will only pay for communal expenditures. The pilot round of the project finished in 2005-2008.

Head of the town building department of Goris municipality Garegin Parsian told Armenpress that the main round of the project will probably kick off in two months; the public discussion of winner of five projects drafted by Academy of architectural of Swiss Mendrisio town and Yerevan State Engineering University has already been conducted.

After the end of “Social house on support conditions” project which kicked off in Goris 100-120 families will be ensured with apartments.

As of today nearly 100 socially insecure families in Goris live in wagon-houses.

39. UN WORLD TOUR AGENCY ORGANIZES A FAMILIARIZING VISIT TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

UN World Tour Agency on May 29 organizes a 5-day familiarizing visit of representatives of foreign mass media to Armenia. Head of the Tourism and Territorial Economic Development Department of the Ministry of Economy Mekhak Apresyan told Armenpress that journalists of a number of European countries including 9 journalists from Italy and France, will have an opportunity to get acquainted with Armenia’s sightseeing and meet with the responsible of the sphere.

According to M. Apresyan, during the visit they will also prepare materials on those picturesque places, which will be broadcasted by a number of authoritative TV channels. “This is a special variant of advertising Armenian sightseeing abroad”, M. Apresyan said.



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40. CELEBRATION ON THE DAY OF REPUBLIC ORGANIZED IN THE SARDARAPAT MEMORIAL COMPLEX [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

Today a celebration was organized in the Sardarapat memorial complex dedicated to the Day of Republic – 91st anniversary of establishment of First Armenian Republic.

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, the NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, representatives of legislative and executive bodies, highest commandship of the Armenian Armed Forces, heads of local self governmental bodies and other officials as well as heads of diplomatic representations accredited in Armenia came to pay tribute to the memory of soldiers who perished in the Sardarapat heroic battle. Diaspora Armenians and foreigners also took part in the event.

Authorities of the state put flowers and paid tribute to the memory of victims of the heroic battles.

Led by the Armenian President the guests also visited the State Museum of Armenian Ethnography and National Freedom struggle, where exhibits brought from Armenian History Museum, National Archives and National Gallery were presented.

During celebration organized on the occasion of 91st anniversary of Sardarapat heroic battle children's ethnic song and dance groups performed dances and songs.

Different provinces of the republic organized reception in the most triumphant place of the last century – creating an atmosphere of rural life. The exhibition of food was accompanied with concerts of different music groups of provinces.

On the occasion of 91st anniversary of victory in the May heroic battles events have been organized in different provinces of the republic. Celebrations have also been organized in Aparan and Vanadzor.

41. THERE ARE 182 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN AKHURYAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/28/09]

There are 185 homeless families in the Akhuryan community of the Armenian province of Shirak. This number concedes only to the index of Gyumri. Head of Akhuryan Community Artsrun Igityan informed Armenpress that the exact list of the homeless people is presented to the Urban Ministry.

"The Community Office has provided 7 hectares territory to the homeless for construction of apartment. The project package is already prepared. We hope that the construction works will kick off on time, that is - in the second quarter of this year", A. Igityan said.

The Community Office last year implemented a work of 60 million AMD, including the road construction, renovation and the building of irrigation network.

This year certain projects have been worked out which already proceed. In near future the problem of drainage of the German-Yugoslavian district of Akhuryan will be solved financed by the 13,5 million provided by the Government with 30 percent of co-financing of the community. The construction works will start next month.

42. COMPUTER CLASSES TO BE ORGANIZED FOR 20 BLIND PEOPLE [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

20 blind handicapped people of Armenia will take part in computer classes since July 1. After finishing the classes each of them will get a computer. Kristine Hovhannissian, a leading specialist of the Department of Issues and Equal Opportunities for the Handicapped People of the disabled of the Administration of the Disabled and the Aged under the Ministry, informed Armenpress that a competition has been already declared, as a result of which the names of the computer teachers and the organizations providing the participants with computers, will be announced.

The results of the competitions will be summed up at the end of June. According to K. Hovhannissian, the trainings will promote integration of people with sight problems into the society more easily. The selection of the blind disabled people is made by the special commission under the direction of the Ministry; the preference is given to students. The Ministry maintains contact with the participants of the training-courses and gets informed about the results regularly. According to K. Hovhannissian, the results of the last year were satisfying.

The program has been running since 2008. Also last year 20 blind disabled people participated in the trainings, each of them got a computer. This year as well as in 2008, 17 mln. 266. 000 drams from the state budget has been granted on that purpose.



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43. INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC SURGERY CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/29/09]

Plastic Surgery International Congress "Global Cooperation" will be held in Yerevan October 8-10.

President of the Armenian Association of Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery Armen Hovhannissian noted, that the goal of the congress is to keep up the pace with the world developments and to get integrated into the world Medical Science without losing the old traditions. A. Hovhannissian noted that the inclusion of Armenian surgeons of diaspora in the forthcoming congress is among the important issues. The main issues for discussion are going to be the aesthetic and plastic surgery and dermatological cosmetology, which is also among the fast developing tendencies of the recent period.

President of the association informed that the first international congress held in Armenia was in 2006 in Yerevan. This first congress was very important for the Armenian specialists as it helped them to make their way to Europe. After that the Association of Armenian Plastic Surgeons became full member of the World and European Confederations. A. Hovhannissian said it gave them an opportunity to establish a closer contact with the specialists of other countries. The second Congress took place in 2008 in Tsakhkazor with the participation of 150 representatives from Russia, Belarus, Middle East, France, Georgia and Germany.

The organizers of the congress are Yerevan State Medical University after M. Heratsi, the Armenian Association of Plastic and Recovery Surgeons as well as the Russian Association of Recovery and Aesthetic Surgeons.

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