



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, June 15, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

AGBU NEWS

1. AGBU RECEIVES FOUR-STAR EXCEPTIONAL RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

AGBU received four-star exceptional rating from the Charity Navigator group on control of benevolent unions for its qualified financial management.

AGBU ranked above such leading non-profits as the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Amnesty International and the Smithsonian Institution.

Charity Navigator explains that the four-star rating means that the organization outperforms other charities in its Cause.

POLITICS

2. RA FOREIGN MINISTER TO LEAVE FOR MOSCOW ON WORKING VISIT ON JUNE 13 [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian leaves for Moscow on June 13 to take part in the sitting of Collective Security Treaty Organization Foreign Ministers' Council to be held on June 14. Noyan Tapan was informed about it by the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department.

3. ACCORDING TO ANC, MATERIALS INTRODUCED TO ADMINISTRATIVE COURT "SHOW THE WHOLE PICTURE OF OUTRAGE NAMED MAY 31 ELECTIONS" [Aravot, 06/13/09]

The RA Administrative Court on June 10 made a decision not to accept for examination and to return the lawsuit of the Armenian National Congress, by which ANC demands invalidating the results of the May 31 Yerevan Council of Elders elections.

The motivation of dismissing the lawsuit is that one of 14 parties included in the ANC preelection bloc has withdrawn its warrant. According to ANC, that motivation is more than absurd, as a month ago the Constitutional Court accepted and discussed bloc's another lawsuit signed by only 9 parties.

"Court's this step has a simple explanation: understanding that under conditions of huge number of factual materials and irrefutable proof it must be impossible to dismiss the Congress lawsuit, the court preferred to take this cynical step. Thus the court once more proves that no justice and judicial system exist in Armenia: long ago, like other state structures it has been turned into an obedient and prideless fawner of the regime, ready to fulfill its any illegal and humiliating order," ANC statement read.

It should be mentioned that according to ANC, "the documents of 397 pages and video materials collected on 4 laser disks introduced to the Administrative Court demonstrate a full picture of outrage called May 31 elections."

4. SERZH SARGSYAN VISITS ANDRANIK MARGARIAN'S GRAVE ON JUNE 12 [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 06/13/09]

RA President Serzh Sargsyan visited former RA Prime Minister Andranik Margarian's grave on June 12, Andranik Margarian's birthday, at Komitas Pantheon. Noyan Tapan was informed about it by the RA President's Press Office.

5. PACE MONITORING COMMITTEE CO-RAPPORTEURS TO ARRIVE IN YEREVAN ON THREE-DAY VISIT ON JUNE 15 [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

PACE Monitoring Committee Co-rapporteurs John Prescott and George Colombier will arrive in Yerevan on a three-day visit on June 15.

RA President Serzh Sargsyan and NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamian will receive the Co-rapporteurs during the visit.

The Co-rapporteurs will meet with RA NA Vice-Speaker, Chairman of the NA Ad-hoc Committee on Events Occurred on 2008 1-2 March in Yerevan and Its Reasons Samvel Nikoyan, members of the



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RA NA delegation in PACE, Chairman of the NA Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Sport and Youth Affairs Artak Davtian, RA Prosecutor General Aghvan Hovsepian, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, RA Ombudsman Armen Haroutiunian, Ambassadors of Council of Europe member-countries and representatives of international organizations.

According to the RA National Assembly Public Relations Department, the PACE Monitoring Committee Co-rapporteurs will also meet with first RA President, Armenian National Congress leader Levon Ter-Petrosian, representatives of NGOs, former members of the fact-finding committee of experts, lawyers, wives of some imprisoned persons.

6. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT ADDRESSES A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF IRAN MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan addressed a congratulatory message to the President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on being re-elected in his post.

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that the message particularly says:

“On behalf of the Armenian people and personally me I warmly congratulate You on being re-elected President of Islamic Republic of Iran, wishing You and the friendly people of Iran new successes and achievements.

I'm sure that we will continue our collaborative efforts towards the enhancement and consolidation of the Armenian-Iranian relations in different spheres. This is imposed to us by the traditional mutual respect between our nations.

Once more I congratulate You on this significant occasion and wish you strong health, happiness and fruitful activity.”

7. ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN FMs DISCUSS ISSUES ON BILATERAL RELATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan who is in Moscow to participate in the CSTO session met June 14 with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

Media relations department of the Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides discussed a number of issues on boosting Armenian-Russian relations.

Armenian and Russian foreign ministers also referred to a number of regional and international issues.

8. THE NA SPEAKER RECEIVES THE REPRESENTATIVES OF “HOUSHAMATYAN” ASSOCIATION WHICH DEALS WITH THE ISSUES OF PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF IMPRISONED PEOPLE [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

The NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received today the members of HOUSHAMATYAN Right Protective, Historical-Educational Charitable Association. Mkhitar Mnatsakanian, Head of the NA permanent commission for protection of human rights and public affairs, MPs Goharik Yenokian and Viktor Dallakian also took part in the meeting.

Public relations department of Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that greeting the guests the NA Speaker noted that 14 June is the 60th anniversary of the exile of thousands of political prisoners to the Altai region by the Stalin regime in 1949.

He noted that since 1955 the USSR tried to restore their rights and in 1994 already in the independent Armenia a law was adopted according to which the certain privileges were given to the political prisoners. H. Abrahamyan informed the guests that he has got their letters and is aware of the established situation round the privileges intended for the political prisoners. He stressed the importance of the legal initiative of the MPs Viktor Dallakian, Goharik Yenokian and Vardan Bostanjan on this issue which has already been sent to the Government and the corresponding NA permanent commission

During the open discussion the participants expressed their viewpoints on the issues of protection of rights of imprisoned people.

Mr. Abrahamyan suggested to continue the discussion of this issue by involving representatives of the Government and authorized representatives of the political prisoners. He stressed that through such dialogues it will be possible to create a bill which best coincides with the interests of the society and the prisoners.



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9. HOVIK ABRAHAMYAN RECEIVES SPEAKER OF NKR PARLIAMENT [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

The NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received today the Speaker of Parliament of Nagorno Karabakh Republic Ashot Ghulian.

Public relations department of Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that greeting his Artsakh counterpart in the Armenian Parliament H. Abrahamyan noted that during the latest period the intercourse between the Armenian and Artsakh legislatures has especially been fostered which allows to mutually clarify the positions for the sake of unified national goals. In this context he has especially stressed the importance of development of direct links between the specialized commissions. H. Abrahamyan pointed out that the Armenian authorities, parliament and the whole nation stand by Artsakh for the sake of the self determination and re-unification of Armenian nation.

The head of the legislative body of Artsakh expressed his gratification on the fact that the two Armenian legislative bodies make use of the any occasion to cooperate. He also stressed the importance of the activity of the inter-parliamentary commission as well as the direct discussions held between the specialized commissions of the two parliaments during which refer is made to the agenda issues the population is concerned with.

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

BUSINESS

10. ACCORDING TO HRANT BAGRATIAN, TAX PACKAGE UNDER DISCUSSION AT ARMENIAN PARLIAMENT "SHEER NONSENSE" [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

The tax package, which is being discussed at the RA National Assembly and envisages the constant presence of a tax inspector at big enterprises, is sheer nonsense. The former prime minister of Armenia, representative of the Armenian National Congress (ANC) Hrant Bagratian expressed this opinion at the June 12 press conference. According to him, it is unclear why the government wants to make such amendments in the tax sector as it will open new doors for corruption. Besides, in his words, a tax inspector can go and check work of each enterprise at any moment of the day instead of spending the whole day at that enterprise.

He added that it is especially unacceptable that this amendment is not related to importing organizations because imports make up the lion's share of GDP. H. Bagratian reminded that under the package submitted by the government, no tax inspectors will be sent to brandy and wine manufacturers. In his opinion, this can be explained by the fact that about 12 NA deputies are engaged in wine and brandy production, and the government does want to "control" them.

H. Bagratian said that it would be correct to introduce the institution of tax inspectors in farm and ore reprocessing sectors. In his words, grapes and tomato wastes must be sealed by the tax inspection so that a reprocessing enterprise will not be able to present false data to the state in the future.

11. KIRK KERKORIAN NOT CONCERNED ABOUT ECONOMIC CRISIS, THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS [Azg, 06/13/09]

The New York Times on June 11 addressed the losses sustained by 92-year-old billionaire of Armenian descent Kirk Kerkorian as a result of the global economic crisis. According to the daily, although Kerkorian's wealth decreased from 14 billion to 2 billion dollars, he does not seem concerned very much about this fact, Asparez reported.

Kerkorian proved in the past that he is capable of enduring such worries, the daily says. In the words of Alex Yemenidjian, Kerkorian's old friend and former chairman of Metro-Goldwin-Mayer, the billionaire has seen such crises in his life and this one is just a small obstacle on his way.

The New York Times informed its readers that Kerkorian prefers focusing on several companies and turns down offers to invest or become engaged in various sectors. One-third of funds of the Lincy Foundation, his philanthropy institution, is related to MGM's shares. In late 2008 the Lincy Foundation had 507.6 million dollars on its balance sheet.



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12. ARMENIAN DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL SESSION OF TRACECA INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION IN ISSYK-KUL ON JUNE 15-16 [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

The delegation headed by Armenian Minister of Transport and Communication Gurchen Sargsyan will participate in the annual session of the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission in Issyk-Kul (Kyrgyzstan) on June 15-16, NT was informed by the press service of the Ministry of Transport and Communication.

During the sitting of the TRACECA national secretaries on June 15, the draft agenda of the annual session will be discussed and TRACECA projects will be presented.

The annual session of the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission will take place on June 16, at which the participants will discuss issues related to the financing of the TRACECA Commission's Permanent Secretariat and the implementation of the 2008-2009 Action Plan. It is also envisaged discussing the expediency of signing a memorandum on mutual understanding with international organizations and the issue of reforms at TRACECA structures. Elections of the Secretary General of the TRACECA Interdepartmental Commission's Permanent Secretariat will be held.

13. PROCREDIT BANK OFFERS NEW TERMS FOR DOLLAR AND DRAM BUSINESS CREDITS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

With the aim of promoting small and medium business ProCredit Bank offers new terms for business credits in the period of June 12 to August 31 within the framework of a summer action. According to a report of the bank, the annual interest rate of credits over 10 thousand dollars will be lower by 4% than the previous rate, the annual interest rate of credits of up to 45 million drams will be reduced by 2% in the indicated period.

14. TOURISM GROWTH EXPECTED IN ARMENIA DESPITE GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

Despite the global financial and economic crisis, a growth of tourism is expected in Armenia. Head of the Tourism and Territorial Economic Development Department of RA Ministry of Economy Mekhak Apresian stated this at the June 12 press conference, adding that a 2.8% growth of tourism was recorded in Armenia in the first quarter of 2009 on the same period of 2008.

According to him, in order to withstand the crisis and maintain tourism growth rates in Armenia, the price policy, in particular issues related to maintaining most competitive prices in market, have been discussed with the private sector, which expressed a willingness to cooperate on formation of competitive prices. For example, the daily payment for a 2-person room in Tsakhkadzor's Kecharis Hotel now makes 15 thousand drams against the previous 30 thousand drams.

The department head said that the development of internal tourism is a priority problem, with a number of programs being worked out in this direction. Particularly, networks of tourist houses that offer family packages and provide more affordable services are being formed.

M. Apresian informed those present that in 2000-2008, the number of tourists to Armenia grew 11-fold. 45 thousand tourists visited the country in 2000, 558 thousand - in 2008. Since 2001, the average annual growth of tourism made 20-25%, growth of internal tourism - 20% in Armenia. According to studies, Diasporan Armenians made up 62% of the total number of tourists.

By data of the World Tourism Organization, the average annual growth of tourism in the world made 4-4.5%. In 2007 the growth amounted to 6.2%, in 2008 it made only 3-3.5%.

15. SERGE SARGSYAN: WE CONSIDER RUSSIA OUR MOST RELIABLE ALLY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

At the June 12 meeting, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and Chairman of Russian Railways OJSC - the concessionary manager of the Armenian railway Vladimir Yakunin discussed the current state and development prospects of the Armenian railway, the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by the parties to the concession agreement. In particular, the interlocutors addressed such issues as modernization of the railway, repairs of rolling stock and raiing, increasing the speed of trains, and formation of a system of cargo transportation by most optimal routes in the shortest period and with minimum expenses.



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According to the RA presidential press service, S. Sargsyan said: "We consider Russia our most reliable ally and give priority to the further strengthening of bilateral relations". In his words, transport in general and railway transport in particular play a significant role in this sense.

V. Yakunin in his turn said that on the whole, he is satisfied with the work done in recent period, adding that serious steps have been taken to improve the management efficiency. Chairman of Russian Railways gave his assurances that the investment obligations will be completely fulfilled.

16. DOCUMENTARY ON ARMENIA'S TOURISM SHOT [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

An one-hour documentary presenting the history, culture and tourist opportunities of Armenia has been shot with the purpose of advertizing the country's tourism. Head of the Tourism and Territorial Economic Development Department of RA Ministry of Economy Mekhak Apresian announced at the June 12 that the documentary was filmed by the ministry in cooperation with two famous Spanish companies. Among the obligations of these companies is to ensure the film's broadcasting.

225 thousand euros was allocated from the state budget for shooting the documentary. M. Apresian said that two authoritative television companies have already shown interest in it. One is TVE company (Spain) with a 450-million audience, and the other is a Scandinavian television company. Negotiations are being conducted with them.

17. ARMENIA HAS CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE TOURISM [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

Armenia has considerable resources for the development of alternative tourism, and it is envisaged developing spa, winter, scientific tourism and adventure travel in the next few years, Head of the Tourism and Territorial Economic Development Department of Ministry of Economy Mekhak Apresian said at the June 12 press conference.

In his words, the program of development of the city of Jermuk, which is related to promotion of winter and spa tourism, has been submitted to the government for discussion. Such programs are being prepared for other cities as well.

He said that steps are being taken to form networks of hotels in marzes (provinces), for which purpose money has been allocated from the Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development Fund. There are more than 40 hotels in Armenian marzes, 4 of which (in the city of Dilijan) received a qualification category.

According to M. Apresian, with the aim of developing tourism in rural communities, seminars are organized for local residents, during which they are informed how to turn part of their houses into hotels, what business to do, etc.

Noting that Armenia has potential for scientific tourism, M. Apresian said that it is necessary to restore this kind of tourism, while Byurakan Observatory should be made its center.

18. RUSSIAN SIDE TRANSFERS 500 MILLION DOLLARS TO CBA ACCOUNT ON JUNE 12 [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Provision of a State Credit, under which a 500 million-dollar credit is given to Armenia, took effect on June 11 - the notification day on the fulfilment of domestic procedures.

According to a press release of the Information and PR Unit of RA Ministry of Finance, immediately after the agreement took effect - on June 12, the Russian side has transferred 500 million dollars to the account of the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA). This sum will be transferred from the CBA's account to the treasury single account of the RA Ministry of Finance on the same day.

The credit is provided at LIBOR + 3% annual interest rate for 15 years, with a 4-year grace period. The agreement was signed by the Russian and Armenian ministers of finance in Moscow on May 20.

The state credit will be used for the following purposes:

- 1) financing the expenditures on the rehabilitation program in the earthquake zone from the state budget of Armenia,
- 2) provision of credits to small and medium entrepreneurs through the Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Center of Armenia (SME DNC) Foundation,
- 3) formation of the Stabilization Fund. Resources of the Stabilization Fund are envisaged for:
 - a) provision of credits to economy,



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b) assistance to the National Mortgage Company,
c) financing the deficit of the state budget of Armenia,
d) in case of necessity, for use in other directions established by law or the government of Armenia.

The circulation of funds of the state credit in the order established by the budget legislation will be reflected in the state budget and the reports on its implementation. Separate calculation of expenditures from the state credit will be ensured as well.

19. "KfW" BANK TO PROVIDE A LOAN OF 50 MILLION EUROS TO "ARMRUSGASPROM" [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

"ArmRusgasprom" and German "KfW" bank signed June 10 a contract on providing long-term loan of about 50 million euros.

Press secretary of "ArmRusgasprom" Shushan Sardaryan told Armenpress that with the received loan the company intends to finance the program on reconstruction and development of gas transportation and distribution systems of Armenia.

"ArmRusgasprom" intends to develop gas transportation system in Armenia and to improve security of gas supply by implementing construction, reconstruction, repair-restoration and modernization works. The works will be carried out in Armenian gas transportation net, including Abovyan's underground gas reservoir. It is planned to place individual signal devices and emergency switch valves in the gas distribution system.

DIASPORA

20. ARCHITECT SINAN'S MEMORIAL YEAR STARTS IN TURKEY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

The year of famous Armenian architect Sinan's memorial started in Turkey. According to panarmenian.net, the solemn ceremonies began at President's Palace with a documentary film about Sinan.

Events dedicated to Sinan are also planned to be held in London, Jerusalem, Paris and Cairo. The famous Ottoman architect Sinan was born in an Armenian family in 1489. They wanted to make him a yenicheri, but then Sultan Selim sent him to learn painting and architecture.

Sinan worked under five Sultans and made distinguished pieces of Islamic architecture. The Suleiman Mosque, Dolmabahce Palace and Topkapi are among them. Sinan in total built 365 buildings, mosques, madrassahs, tombs, public and bath-houses. Sinan is the founder of architects family, one of his heirs, Zaqaria Miltanoglu took part in the rebuilding of Saint Cross Church on Akhtamar Island.

21. ARMENIAN SCHOOL LEAVERS' AWARDING CEREMONY HELD IN PASADENA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

Pasadena secondary schools' Armenian leavers awarding ceremony took place on June 3 at the Armenian Center of Pasadena with the assistance of Archbishop Mushegh Martirosian.

The event was held by the pastor and trustees of Saint Sargis Church in Pasadena. The traditional event has been held 20 years running. The members of the district's ARFD Lernavayr committee and representatives of organizations and unions of Pasadena, Mayor of Pasadena Bill Bogard, representative of Congressman Adam Schiff Hayk Gartunian and others were present at the event.

According to the Asbarez daily, over 50 students were given diplomas. Partev Gyulumian conveyed the blessings of His Holiness and priest Khoren Paposhian blessed the tables. The four best pupils were honored with stipends. Then the school leavers were given letters of acknowledgements and souvenirs.

22. HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP AGHAN BALIOZIAN MEETS ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OF AUKLAND [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

Primate of the Diocese of Australia & New Zealand His Eminence Archbishop Aghan Baliozian accompanied by Reverend Father Bartevo Karakashian from the Church of Holy Resurrection in Sydney met Armenian community of Auckland on June 5 and took part in the ceremony of Queen's Birthday.



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Then Aghan Baliozian met the Parish Priest of the Indian Orthodox Church, which was important for the development of the relationship between two churches, which further strengthened, when Archbishop Baliozian was invited to India last year.

ARTS

23. THREE FILMS BECOME FINALISTS IN CONTEST ANNOUNCED BY ARMENIAN DRAMATIC ARTS ALLIANCE [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

Three films are the finalists of the Biennial Lillian & Varnum Paul 2009 Screenwriting Award announced by the Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA): Music for Strangers by Eric Nazarian (U.S), Moskvitch, My Love by Levon Minassian (France), and The Bedouin by David Deranian and Anthony Zanontian (U.S). ADAA reported this on June 8.

Screenplay submissions were received from across the United States, Europe and Armenia. The films should be based on Armenian themes and be written in English.

The three finalist films will be evaluated by an honorary jury including filmmaker Atom Egoyan, Producer and Vice-President of Development at Alcon Entertainment, Steve Wegner, and director Michael Peretzian.

The winner, whose name will be announced in Los Angeles on August 28-30, will get \$10 000. The Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance's mission is to make the Armenian voice heard on the world, which the organization accomplishes by supporting playwrights, screenwriters and producers as far as possible.

Besides the Lillian and Varnum Paul Screenwriting Award, ADAA also administers the William Saroyan Prize for Playwriting, the deadline for which is February 15, 2010. For more information please visit the website www.armeniandrama.org.

24. GRIGOR MOMJIAN'S EXHIBITION TO BE LAUNCHED IN DUTCH CITY OF GOUDA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

Grigor Momjian's Orange Moon exhibition will be launched on June 14 at the Museum of Gouda, Holland. It will last till July 19. According to the Abovian Cultural Center of the Netherlands, the author's poetic collection Orange Moon with author's illustrations will be also presented the same day. The same exhibition is planned to be in Armenia in 2010.

25. 11-YEAR OLD ANDRANIK ALEKSANYAN TO REPRESENT UKRAINE AT JUNIOR "EUROVISION-2009" [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

11-year old Andranik Aleksanyan from Khmel'nitskiy will represent Ukraine in Junior "Eurovision 2009" song contest.

Andranik became the winner in the semi-final of the national final qualifying round. "Analitika.at.ua" on-line newspaper reports that the name of the winner was declared by Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Timoshenko.

Ukraine has been taking part in the competition since 2006, its representatives took the 9th place twice and the 2nd place once-in 2008. This year the competition will take place in Ukraine.

RELIGION

26. CATHOLICOS ARAM I HIGHLIGHTS THE MUTUAL RESPECT AND THE NECESSITY OF COEXISTENCE AND COOPERATION IN CHRISTIAN-ISLAMIC DIALOGUE [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

His Holiness Catholicos of Cilicia Aram I received June 13 in Anthelias the responsible authorities of the Iranian department of dialogue with religions and cultures. The Catholicosate press service told Armenpress that the primate of Armenian diocese of Tehran Archbishop Sepuh Sargsyan and Bishop Babken Charyan, the primate of Ispahan diocese, were present at the meeting.

Issues on the present condition of Christian-Islamic dialogue, partially-on the coming summit of theological dialogue of Iran and the Catholicosate of Cilicia were discussed. The last summit took place in Tehran in 2008, and the next one is to take place in Anthelias in May, 2010.

His Holiness attached great importance to the mutual respect in Christian-Islamic dialogue as well as to the necessity of coexistence and cooperation. "The talks with each other and the search for edges



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of understanding within theological issues are not enough, coexistence and the cooperation originated in its result are of vital importance. It is necessary to respect the differences and work collaboratively so that the public values between the two religions become the basis of harmonious coexistence”, -said the Catholics.

SOCIAL

27. AFTER GETTING AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUSPENSION OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS BY MCA IN ARMENIA OTHER VARIANTS OF CONTINUATION OF THE PROJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

After receiving the official information on the suspension of the road construction works by the “Millennium Challenges” Corporation in Armenia the Armenian side will discuss other variants to continue the program.

“No official statements have yet been made about this. After that we will naturally discuss possible ways to continue these programs and find corresponding solutions,” Armenian Transport and Communication Minister Gurgen Sargsyan told Armenpress.

According to the Minister, these works are possible to be implemented through one donor organization as well as through several sources of financing.

28. GAS SUPPLY TO ARMENIA TO BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

Gas supply to Armenia will be temporary suspended June 16-21 agreed with the works on connecting the newly constructed sector of Kazakh-Saguramo.

Press secretary of ArmRusgasprom Shushan Sardaryan told Armenpress that during that period the gas supply in the territory of Armenia will be ensured from the Abovian underground gas reservoir.

29. DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS IN SYUNIK [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

The initial round of the “Social house on the support conditions” program which is being for the first time implemented in Goris by the Swiss Development and Cooperation office has already finished.

Now the preparatory works for the start of the main works are being implemented as a result of which the housing issues of socially insecure families will be settled.

Head of the staff of the Governor’s office Razmik Ghazarian told Armenpress that besides this project the Organization intends during 2009-2010 also to implement development programs of 5.2 million Swiss Franks and humanitarian programs of nearly 2 million Swiss Franks.

Particularly within the frameworks of the programs 2.5 million Franks have already been provided to the province to assist the development of animal husbandry and 2.3 million – for the third round of the project of development of rural communities.

30. DURING THE FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF 228.3 MILLION DRAMS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN SYUNIK [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

During the five months of this year consumption and preservation works of province, republican and inter-state importance roads of 228.3 million drams have been implemented.

An official from the road construction and transport department of the Governor’s office told Armenpress that during this year on the state budget means reconstruction works of the state highway-Agarak-Uzhanis road of province importance have been implemented the overall sum of which reached 109.12 million drams.

At present the inter-state and partly republican importance roads are comparatively in a favorable condition which cannot be said about the community and province roads.

Works are also conducted in the Goris-Kapan sector of the Meghri-Yerevan inter-state road. To bypass the sector collapsed as a result of the land-slide a new road is being constructed: the project sum reached 1.6 billion drams from which construction works of 225 million drams will be implemented during the current year.



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31. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED A GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORLD SOCIOLOGY CONGRESS [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today a group of participants of the World Sociology Congress headed by director of the International Sociology Institute Byorn Vitrok.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that the head of Armenian government stressed the necessity of professional interpretation of social events taking place in the modern world and expressed hope that the renown professionals representing 50 countries, 89 universities and scientific-research centers will propose new ideas in order to understand the present challenges, to analyze the results and circumstances of the economic crisis, as well as possibilities of overcoming it.

In that context methods and ways of the cooperation of sociologists and governments were discussed, and great importance was attached to the sociological researches in the formation of the policy carried out by the government. The guests presented the experience of their countries, theoretical and methodological achievements of social sciences.

32. ARMENIA GIVES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CONSTRUCTION OF ARMENIA-IRAN RAILWAY [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan met today with the president of the "Russian Railways" company Vladimir Yakunin and members of his entourage.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides discussed a number of issues of mutual interest.

The sides particularly referred to the issues on development of inner network of the Armenian railways and implementation of the concession agreement. Vladimir Yakunin assured that the financial-economic crisis cannot impede the implementation of the programs.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan noted that Armenia gives a prior importance to the construction of Armenia-Iran railway. A task group has been set up with the participation of the Armenian, Russian and Iranian relevant ministries for detailed studying of the project and which will call its first session and discuss the issues on financing of the program, participation of the interested countries in late July.

Tigran Sargsyan and Vladimir Yakunin highly assessed the role of transport in the further consolidation of strategic relations between the two countries and agreed hence as well to keep the issues on development of the Armenian railway under the limelight.

33. ALEXANDER CHUBARYAN AWARDED GOLD MEDAL OF ARMENIAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

Foreign member of Armenian National Academy of Sciences, academician of Russian Academy of Sciences, director of General History Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences Alexander Chubaryan was awarded today with the gold medal of Armenian National Academy of Sciences for his notable services in the development of historical sciences in Russian Republic, great contribution to the development of cooperation between academic institutes of CIS states as well as on to development of Armenian-Russian scientific ties and great support in preparation of young employees.

NAS press service told Armenpress that the awarding ceremony took place in the National Academy of Sciences, during the 5-th conference of the International Association of CIS states' history Institutes.

Parallel to the event, within the framework of the activity of the Association, a summer school of young historians of CIS States is conducted. Pointing out Alexander Chubaryan's merits in formation and development of the Association, president of Armenian National Academy of Sciences Radik Martirosyan highly assessed the Association's activity, which contributes to the development of scientific ties in post-soviet countries. Deputy head of Armenian president's staff Vigen Sargsyan welcomed the event on behalf of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan. Armenian Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan read the message of the Armenian prime minister. Scientists of the CIS member states took part in the event.

34. AS A RESULT OF CHECKING IN A NUMBER OF ORPHANAGES AND HOUSE-HOSTELS FLAWS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED [ARMENPRESS, 06/15/09]

The commission established with the decree of the Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Minister Gevorg Petrosyan conducted studies in the "Yerevan #1", "Nork" house-hostel, Gyumri orphanage after



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“F. Nansen” as well as in the “Child’s house”, Yerevan “Zatik”, Kharberd orphanage after M. Izmirlian and the “Nork Child’s house”.

An official from Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that as a result of the checking flaws and violations of the dates of the food and terms of usage, housing conditions and care of children have been registered in almost all the establishments. Explanations have been required from the responsible people.

On June 12 the Minister without warning visited the Yerevan “Zatik” and “Marie Ismirlian’s” orphanages where various violations of the children’s care have also been registered. The minister talked to the children and workers of the orphanages and gave corresponding assignments to them.

The directors have been warned about the violations and have been tasked to eliminate them within utmost short terms. G. Petrosyan assured that such visits will carry a permanent and regular character and cover all the institutions which are affiliated to the Ministry.

SPORTS

35. 28 ARMENIAN SPORTSMEN TO TAKE PART IN EUROPEAN ATHLETICS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

The 1st European Athletics Team Championship will be held in Sarajevo (Bosnia) on June 19-20. The Armenian team composed of 28 sportsmen will compete in Group 2, in which 14 teams have been included.

36. TWO ROUNDS REMAIN UNTIL END OF MAIA CHIBURDANIDZE CUP TOURNAMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

After six rounds held in Maia Chiburdanidze Cup Tournament, chess player Bella Khotenashvili (Georgia) with 6 points is lead in the points table. Armenian player Lilit Galoyan earned 5 points and shares 2nd-9th positions. Lilit Mkrtschian has 4.5 points, Siranush Andreasian - 4 points.

Two rounds remain until the end of the tournament.

37. 14 ARMENIAN SPORTSMEN TO COMPETE AT 25TH WORLD STUDENT GAMES [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/13/09]

The 25th World Student Games will be held in Belgrade (Serbia) on July 1-12. 14 sportsmen from Armenia will participate in judo, taekwondo, table tennis and fencing competitions. The delegation is also composed of 4 coaches and one referee.

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