



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, June 22, 2009

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### POLITICS

#### 1. RA PRESIDENT VISITS EMBASSY OF UNITED KINGDOM IN ARMENIA ON BIRTHDAY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 06/19/09]

On the occasion of National Holiday of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - official birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, RA President Serzh Sargsyan has visited today the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Armenia and congratulated the staff of the Embassy.

According to the President's Press Office, at the subsequent discussion the two sides discussed the perspective of development of UK-Armenia relations, stressed the importance of activating the cooperation in the sphere of economy. They also discussed regional problems.

#### 2. NATIONAL PROGRAM OF FIGHTING DRUGS TO BE WORKED OUT IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

The working group on elaboration of the national program of fighting drugs has today convened its first sitting chaired by Artur Baghdasarian, Secretary of National Security Council and Head of the inter-departmental commission of coordination of the Armenia's cooperation with the European structures.

Stressing that the elaboration of national program is envisaged by the 2009-2011 Armenia-EU program, Artur Baghdasarian pointed out the importance of working out and implementing a national program against drugs in a possible short period of time.

According to the Press Service of National Security Council, during the sitting it was decided through cooperation with the representatives of program of fighting drugs in the South Caucasus to work out the general principles of the national program, discuss the program with the interested institutions and European experts and to submit it to the endorsement according to the set order.

#### 3. CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON SUPPORTS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

Congresswoman of California Laura Richardson has promised to cosponsor Armenian Genocide Resolution 252 which was submitted to the House of Representatives.

Conveying her decision to the Armenian National Committee of America she noted that the Genocide which was committed towards Armenians in 1915-1923 by Turks was an unprecedented event and the only convenient definition to describe those massacres is the word "genocide" and no one should be afraid of giving a real definition to those events.

Richardson added that the International Association of Genocide Scholars and almost all merited historians agree that the Armenians were the victims of the first genocide of the 20th century but Turkey continues this reality of denial. The Asbarez daily reported this.

#### 4. SERZH SARGSYAN VISITS EXAMINATION CENTER DISLOCATED AT YSU [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 06/19/09]

On June 19, RA President Serzh Sargsyan visited an examination center dislocated at Yerevan State University to get acquainted with the process of united exams in Chemistry and History of Armenian People. As RA Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotian informed journalists, 1330 and 3572 school leavers, respectively, take united exams in Chemistry and History of Armenian People subjects this year. He also said that this year lower average points were recorded in united exams as compared with the previous year: for instance, 1300 leavers have got an excellent mark in foreign language exam, which is less by 400 as compared with the previous year.

Speaking about discontents over examination tests recorded in the past days, A. Ashotian said that an examination test in Armenian Language had a dual answer and four tests in Mathematics had a similar solution, which, however, does not mean that they are "wrong tests." According to the Minister, tests should be just made up more accurately in the future. A. Ashotian also excluded that a "leakage" of tests took place, as in that case an "explosion" of high points would happen, which did not happen.



## 5. RA PARLIAMENT PASSES DECISION ON GRANTING AMNESTY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

On June 19, the RA National Assembly with 98 votes "for," 1 "against" and 3 "abstained" passed the decision on granting an amnesty made up on the basis of proposals acceptable for the RA President. Zharangutiun (Heritage) faction members were against and abstained, the reason of which was turning down of their proposals on extending the amnesty on all persons accused on the March events.

According to the main reporter, RA Minister of Justice Gevorg Danielian, amnesty's decision will be used to persons committing a crime by June 1 of the current year. It was also mentioned that according to approximate calculations, in total, the amnesty will extend to nearly 2 thousand persons, 500 of which will be completely get free of serving their punishment.

The amnesty will also extend to nearly 90% persons accused on the March events. Among them, those sentenced to maximum 5 years' imprisonment will get completely free of serving their punishment.

The amnesty will not be used in a number of cases, including, in particular, to persons being in search before passing this decision, with the exception of those voluntarily presenting themselves to the law enforcement bodies by July 31 of the current year and to the court if the case is examined at the court. The decision will not extend to an especially dangerous repeated commission of crimes, as well as to persons committing several crimes if no amnesty is envisaged for even if one of those crimes.

The decision also establishes the conditions of reduction of the non-served part of punishment, the responsibilities of execution of amnesty decision are clarified in separate cases. Amnesty is subject to granting to persons kept at disciplinary battalions and RA Justice Ministry penitentiary institutions, as well as to persons suspendedly set free of punishment ahead of term, to persons, the punishment set to which was delayed or the punishment was not used suspendedly or to those sentenced to punishments not connected with imprisonment by September 30 of the current year.

## 6. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES GOVERNOR OF RUSSIAN PROVINCE OF KALININGRAD GEORGI BOSS [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today governor of Russian province of Kaliningrad Georgi Boss.

Governmental public relations department told Armenpress that the head of Armenian government, welcoming the guests, talked about the new possibilities of the development of Armenian-Russian relations, where the economic relations with the regions of Russian Federation are of great importance.

Governor Georgi Boss presented the main directions of the development of province economy, reforms taking place in the banking system, measures towards promotion of investments and noted that the interest towards Armenia is also conditioned by the fact that Kaliningrad province attaches great importance to the development of relations especially with the countries which are near to Russia historically and spiritually.

During the conversation an exchange of ideas about the cooperation in the spheres of agricultural goods, constructional and industrial products, trade, jewelry, tourism took place.

Speaking about the development of relations and the possibilities of implementing joint projects, the interlocutors attached importance to the efforts towards strengthening business ties, and the business-forum conducted in Yerevan "Moscow House", as well as the exhibition of the products of the industrial enterprises of Kaliningrad certainly will promote these efforts. Both sides expressed wish to organize such a meeting between businessmen in Kaliningrad as well.

## 7. ARGENTINEAN EMBASSY TO OPEN IN ARMENIA [Azg, 06/22/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan received today charge d'affaires of Argentina Marcello Sebastie, who is in Armenia on the occasion of the opening ceremony of Argentinean Embassy.

The Media relations department of Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that Minister Nalbandyan, welcoming the guests, expressed satisfaction for the opening of the Argentinean Embassy and expressed hope that it will give new impetus to strengthening and deepening of bilateral relations. The Armenian foreign minister pointed out the friendly relations formed between the two countries, as well as the developed legal-agreement field create basis for the establishment of more active cooperation. Edward Nalbandyan told the Argentinean charge d'affaires that Foreign Affairs Ministry will provide support during the implementation of its mission both in the establishment of the embassy and its opening.



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Marcello Sebastie conveyed to Armenian Foreign Affairs Minister the message of Argentinean Foreign Affairs Minister Jorje Tayana and noted that Argentina attaches great importance to the further expansion of relations with Armenia, and the opening of the first Argentinean Embassy in South Caucasus is conditioned by that.

The interlocutors also exchanged ideas on a number of issues of mutual interest.

The charge d'affaires of Argentina reaffirmed the invitation of Argentinean Foreign Minister to Edward Nalbandyan to visit Buenos Ayres.

## 8. ARMENIA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

The Republic of Armenia and United Arab Emirates are aimed at giving new impetus to the development of relations and consolidate them in all the spheres, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan and Foreign Minister of UAE Abdallah Bin Zayed said June 21 at a joint press conference followed after their meeting. The ministers discussed a wide range of bilateral, territorial, international issues. According to E. Nalbandyan, during the recent period strive of boosting of bilateral relations has been noted from the two sides.

Many mutual visits have taken place, the economic cooperation has expanded and there are many programs on development and consolidation of relations. The two ministers expressed wish to do everything to promote the relations and consolidate them in all the directions.

The UAE minister expressed hope that his visit will promote the further improvement of relations. He said he is not satisfied with the level of trade-economic relations between the two countries, stating that they have great potential for development which is not being used.

The UAE minister said that the private companies of the both sides may act more actively by carrying out joint programs. He said he is pleased that the Armenian government is creating favorable conditions for UAE investors who will in near future be encouraged to increase their investments in Armenia.

One of the discussed programs of the ministers was the reconstruction of the infrastructural system of "Haghartsin" church complex initiated by the Emir of Sharzha Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad al Kassimi. The program costing 5 million USD has entered the practical round.

One of the important projects is also the decision of the Abu Dhabi Development Fund on providing 10 million USD credit for the reconstruction of "Arpa-Sevan" tunnel.

The two sides also express interest towards further activation of cooperation in the tourism sphere. Practical ties have been established between Armenian and UAE trade-industrial chambers. The Armenian side has expressed readiness for the organization of joint trade-industrial exhibitions and business-forums, activation of contacts between businessmen.

## 9. ARMENIAN NA DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN PACE SESSION [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

The delegation headed by the Armenian NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan will participate in the third part of the PACE session in Strasbourg.

NA public relations department told Armenpress that the delegation headed by the NA speaker will consist of head of the NA staff Gegham Gharibjanyan, head of the Armenian delegation to PACE Davit Harutyunian, Naira Zurabyan, Armen Rustamyan, Hermine Naghdalyan, Zaruhi Postanjyan and others.

## 10. HOVIK ABRAHAMYAN RECEIVES UAE FOREIGN MINISTER [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

Armenian National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received June 21 Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates Abdallah bin Zayed al Nahayan who was in Armenia on a working visit.

NA public relations department told Armenpress that greeting the guest the NA chairman expressed assurance that the visit of the UAE minister to Armenia will promote the development of bilateral relations. He underscored the historic warm relations between the Armenian and Arab peoples and noted that he will exert all the efforts to consolidate these ties.

The interlocutors highly assessed the level of bilateral political relations, noting though that it is necessary to develop inter-parliamentary contacts and organize mutual visits of members of parliaments.



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Referring to the global financial-economic crisis the sides agreed that taking into consideration this challenge Yerevan and Abu Dhabi must continue developing bilateral trade-economic cooperation and make mutual investments.

## 11. E. NALBANDYAN SAYS ARMENIA HOPEFUL THAT TURKEY WILL NOT MAKE STEP BACK IN THE REGULATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

“We hope that Turkey has not made a step back in the issue of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations. We are ready to go to an non-preconditioned regulation of relations and hope that Turkey will also go in that direction,” on the request of a journalist referring to the Special EU Representative Peter Semneby’s “Turkey has made a step back” statement the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan said during the June 21 joint press conference with the Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Abdallah Bin Zeyed al Nahayani.

E. Nalbandyan noted that within the context of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations Armenia intends to go in the direction of establishment of diplomatic relations and opening the borders although the relations are not restricted only to this.

“We are intending to establish an inter-governmental commission for the development of relations which will deal with numerous issues the sides are concerned with,” he clarified.

Referring to the mutually exclusive statements from Turkey the Armenian Foreign Minister said that no issues are regulated through mutually exclusive statements, if there is a wish to regulate the issues through the diplomatic ways they are possible to realize through the negotiations, agreements reached as a result of these negotiations and through their implementation.

“We have this opportunity in the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations and Armenia will continue its efforts in this direction,” E. Nalbandyan noted.

UAE Foreign Minister Abdallah Bin Zeyed al Nahayani who in the evening June 21 left from Yerevan to Ankara, during the joint press conference noted that the football diplomacy has evoked interest between the two states.

“We are glad that the normalization of the relations is on the right way. I hope it will continue to develop this way. We follow the events and will be glad for any positive development. It will be a difficult decision by the governments of the two states, but we hope that the both sides will have the courage to make these steps,” the UAE Foreign Minister said.

## 12. THE UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS THE BEST WAY TO REGULATE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NEIGHBORS IS THE DIPLOMATIC WAY [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

The best way to regulate the conflict between the neighbors is the diplomatic way, in response to the question of a journalist on the UAE position on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation the Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Abdallah Bin Zeyed al Nahayani said during the June 21 joint press conference with the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan.

“We are a state that suffered from the relations with one of our neighbors. Iran continues to keep three our islands in occupation. We also see the ways of regulation of this issue in dialogue and diplomatic negotiations with Iran. Conflict and issues must not be barrier for normal and stable relations between the neighbors,” the UAE Foreign Minister noted.

Referring to the circulating news that the Azerbaijani Government has prepared a project of return of the refugees to Nagorno Karabakh the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan said that no such issue is being discussed during the negotiations.

“The issue can only be discussed when a breakthrough is reached in the Nagorno Karabakh issue and we must also intend that there is an issue of nearly 400 000 Armenian refugees,” E. Nalbandyan stressed.

According to the reference provided by Armenian Foreign Ministry, in the International institutions, particularly within the frameworks of Organization of Islamic Conference, guided by the Islamic solidarity principal the UAE supports the Azerbaijani position in the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

Nevertheless according to the official position of the UAE conflicts like Nagorno Karabakh must be regulated in a peaceful way according to the international laws and norms through the dialogue, bilateral relations or international proceedings.

It is also necessary to state that the refers of UAE mass media on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict as well as on the Armenian Genocide as a rule carry a balanced character.



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## 13. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN RECEIVES UAE FOREIGN MINISTER A. BIN ZAYED AL NAHAYANI [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received June 21 the Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates Abdallah bin Zayed al Nahayani who is in Armenia on a working visit.

Presidential press office told Armenpress that stressing the importance of the first visit of the UAE Foreign Minister to our state President Sargsyan said: "Armenia is greatly interested in the enhancement of relations with UAE and is sure that there is a great potential for it."

Serzh Sargsyan considered the absence of any serious obstacles for the development of relations as very significant.

Expressing gratitude for warm reception the UAE Foreign Minister stressed the readiness of his state to undertake concrete steps towards the development of relations with Armenia. He stressed the importance of activation of mutual visits and noted that they will give an opportunity to discuss all those opportunities and means that will assist the enhancement of bilateral cooperation.

Referring to the economic relations the Armenian President said that the UAE is an important trade-economic partner of Armenia in the Middle East region and that our state wishes to further enhance the cooperation. The Armenian President suggested establishing a joint inter-governmental commission ensuring that it is a very applicable tool for the promotion of the bilateral cooperation and that Armenia has such an experience with many states.

During the meeting the President of the republic and the UAE Foreign Minister also exchanged thoughts on the security issues in the South Caucasus and Middle East. Serzh Sargsyan briefly presented the latest negotiation developments of Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation and the process of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations. Armenian President S. Sargsyan also with gratification stressed the UAE balanced policy towards the subtle issues of our region.

## **BUSINESS**

## 14. MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS MUST SUBMIT PROPOSALS ON TAX COLLECTION [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

Tax collection is currently the number one problem of the Armenian government. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said at the June 18 sitting of the government that this problem concerns not only the State Revenue Committee, and all the departments should help with its solution. "Our departments are very indifferent to this problem. If there is an opportunity for organizations under the jurisdiction of a department not to pay taxes, the department's heads wink at it. It is an unacceptable approach," the prime minister said.

By his instruction, within 3 days the heads of all the departments must submit proposals on what steps should be taken in their respective sectors in order to help the State Revenue Committee with tax collection. According to T. Sargsyan, there is great potential for tax collection in health sector as serious accounting problems still exist at many medical centers, as well as in agriculture, particularly at big processing enterprises, also in transport and communication sector and construction.

T. Sargsyan said that the economic decline in Armenia is mostly conditioned by a fall in indices of the construction sector, which in its turn has negatively affected all the sectors. There was a fall in Russian investments made in Armenia's construction in the first five months of 2009 on the same period of 2008. "We should initiate serious stimulating measures to deal with these problems," the prime minister noted.

## 15. THIS SUMMER HIGH-RANKING ARMENIAN OFFICIALS MUST REST IN ARMENIA BY TAKING PART OF THEIR VACATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

This summer will be a period of hard work for the Armenian government members so the ministers, deputy ministers and heads of departments will not be able to rest for a month. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan announced this at the June 18 sitting of the government, adding that in case of taking a vacation, an official will have to spend it in Armenia.

"I am surprised that all of you have submitted applications for a vacation in the same month. As if nothing extraordinary has happened, we have overcome the financial and economic crisis, and the government is not expected to do hard work. Such an approach is unacceptable. Even if a high-ranking official gets a vacation, it will be a short one in Armenia," T. Sargsyan said, noting that Armenia's



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economic indices were not good this year, and the year 2009, especially its first nine months will be the hardest for the economy.

In his words, the fall in economic indices appears to be notable against the background of high economic indices in recent years, but one should not be guided by the explanation that a problem of technical recession exists. According to T. Sargsian, Armenia's economic indices continue to decline under the impact of the crisis, but some positive trends are expected in late 2009. "If we work well this summer, we will see positive results at the end of 2009. I request you to consider the summer season as a period of intensive work. The government has no right to look forward to a holiday season, no, it is going to be a period of strenuous work," the prime minister underlined.

## 16. GDP OF ARMENIA DROPS BY 15.7% IN JANUARY-MAY 2009 ON SAME PERIOD OF 2008 [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

Real GDP of Armenia in January-May 2009 made up 84.3% of the country's GDP in the same period of last year (that is, it dropped by 15.7%) and amounted to 839bn 356m drams (over 2bn 439m USD as calculated at the average exchange rate of 344.31 drams per dollar in January-May). The index-delator of GDP made 101.4%.

According to RA National Statistical Service, industrial production fell by 10.5% to 226bn 890m drams in Armenia in January-May 2009 on the same months of 2008.

The gross agricultural output fell by 2.9% to 81bn 129m drams, construction - by 56.1% to 72bn 971m drams, retail trade grew by 0.2% to 335bn 508m drams, and services declined by 1.7% to 274bn 733m drams.

The foreign trade of Armenia fell by 33.7% compared with January-May 2008 and made 1bn 312m USD, with exports falling by 47.8% to 220.1m USD and imports declining by 29.9% to 1bn 92m USD. The foreign trade turnover in May made up 84.1% of the foreign trade in April, with imports making 83.8% respectively.

Consumer prices rose by 2.5%, while industrial production prices fell by 4.3% in January-May 2009 on the same period of 2008.

The number of officially registered unemployed grew by 9.8% to 83.9 thousand in late May 2009 as compared with the same month of 2008.

The average monthly nominal salary amounted to 97,527 drams in January-May 2009 (a 13.4% growth on the same period of 2008), including the average salary of 80,857 drams in the state sector (17.6% growth) and the salary of 121,990 drams in the non-state sector (7.9% growth).

## 17. ACCORDING TO HRACH BERBERIAN, ARMENIAN GRAPE JUICE WITH ITS HIGH SUGAR CONTENT CAN BE COMPETITIVE BOTH IN EUROPE AND RUSSIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

There are great prospects of developing the wine-making sector in Armenia, but the free market and business have their own rules so the state should intervene in this business. Chairman of the Agrarian Farmer Union Hrach Berberian expressed this opinion at the June 19 press conference. At the same time he said that the wine-makers cannot regulate their market and it is necessary to find some other ways in terms of ensuring high quality production and export. "The state assistance is not necessary for export, this issue is related to manufacturers' marketing, which, unfortunately, is at a low level in Armenia," he noted.

In his opinion, the grapes grown in Ararat Valley have a 30% sugar content and for that reason the wines made from such grapes are strong or "heavy" and are not in demand in European markets where many prefer light wines. Whereas, according to H. Berberian, grapes with a high sugar content can be used in the production of grape juice, raisins and grape honey, which is similar to natural honey in its quality. "It surprises me that the local manufacturers do not develop this direction. For example, grape juice is much in demand in Europe, and the Armenian grape juice with its high sugar content will be competitive both in Europe and Russia," H. Berberian said, adding that in the Soviet time there was a brisk demand for Armenian grape juice in Russia.



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## 18. THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IS READY TO ALLOCATE BY 1 MILLION USD FOR THE TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC STUDY OF CONSTRUCTION OF IRAN-ARMENIA RAILROAD [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

The negotiations are now in process with the Asian Bank to bring the project of construction of Iran-Armenian railroad to life. In response to the question of Armenpress the Armenian Transport and Communication Minister Gurgen Sargsyan noted that there is already a quite great progress in this respect.

“Discussion of the agreement of financing of the implementation of technical-economic studies and further signing is intended for the nearest future,” the minister said noting that the Asian Bank is intending to allocate by 1 million USD only for this studies.

The construction of Iran-Armenia railroad is intended to give an opportunity to link the ports of Middle East, Russia and Persian Bay with the Black Sea ports.

## 19. DELEGATION HEADED BY T. SARGSYAN TAKES PART IN “BRIDGE ARTSAKH” ECONOMIC FORUM [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

Delegation headed by the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan was June 20-21 in Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno Karabakh republic on a working visit.

Delegation which took part in the “Bridge Artsakh” economic forum involved the head of the Armenian Government’s staff Davit Sargsyan, Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtian, Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan, Armenian Agriculture Minister Gerasim Alaverdyan, Urban Minister Vardan Vardanyan, Transport and Communicating Minister Gurgen Sargsyan and other officials.

Public relations department of Armenian Government told Armenpress that the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan had a face-to-face talk with the Nagorno Karabakh President Bako Sahakyan. Afterwards he took part in the “Bridge Artsakh” economic forum which was organized by Armenian Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen and “Master” center of support to the international integration.

The agenda of “State and the business; from dialogue to cooperation” forum involved the issues of evoking interest of Armenian and Foreign businessmen towards Artsakh and existing issues of its economy making it attractive for the investments.

In the evening the Armenian prime minister had a face-to-face meeting with his Karabakh counterpart Arayik Harutyunian after which extended meeting with the participation of members of the both governments took place.

During the session the results of the previous meetings were summed up and future directions and projects of cooperation have been indicated.

Yesterday evening the delegation of the Armenian Government wrapped up its visit to Nagorno Karabakh and returned back to Yerevan.

## 20. BY THE END OF THE YEAR “MICROSOFT” TO START THE SALE OF “WINDOWS 7” OPERATION SYSTEM IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

“Windows XP”, “Windows vista”, “Office 2007” software are already available in Armenia and are provided for free. Head of the Armenian office of “Microsoft” Grigor Barseghyan told Armenpress that instead of the English versions of these software their Armenian versions may be downloaded from the internet or apply to the Armenian office of “Microsoft”. According to G. Barseghyan the “Office” 2007 office package already involves an Armenian orthographic division in “Unicode”.

By the end of this year “Microsoft” will start the sale of the operational system in the direction of which negotiations are already held and works are intended in the localization and translation of them into Armenian. They will be continuative and as much as possible software packages will be available in Armenia. G. Barseghyan stresses the importance of the Armenification of this software as with it they will be more available for those who do not know Russian and English.

“Making the information technologies available for everyone is a most important issue for us,” he said expressing hope that the applicability of computer terms is a task of time.

## 21. “NASDAQ OMX ARMENIA” POSTPONES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN PROJECTS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

In the conditions of world financial-economic crisis the authorities of “NASDAQ OMX Armenia” stock exchange have postponed the implementation of a part of its projects. Assistant to the Chief



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Director of the exchange, head of the department of exchange services and business development Karen Zakarian told Armenpress that after entering the Armenian market the "NASDAQ OMX Armenia" has conducted structural changes and drafted a number of development projects.

"Implementation of a part of them which mainly referred to new allocations of stocks, have been temporarily postponed in the conditions of the crisis," the director said. According to him but for the crisis the results of the reforms implemented by them would be more rapidly seen.

K. Zakarian said that the world stock exchanges including the "NASDAQ OMX Armenia" are comparably stable institutions in the conditions of the crisis. But the issues of the clients somehow have a negative impact on the activity of the institution.

"The impact of world financial crisis is not so notable on the Armenian financial market. The economic crisis had a greater impact. But we have suffered less than other states of the world," he said.

## DIASPORA

### 22. ASMA ASSAD: ARMENIANS OF SYRIA HAVE NATURALLY INTEGRATED INTO COUNTRY'S LIFE [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

On the initiative of the First Lady of Syria Asma Assad, a meeting-discussion with CEO of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund Ara Vardanian took place on June 18.

At the request of Asma Assad, the structure, practices and best experience of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund were presented. The meeting participants also informed her on those mechanisms of fund-raising organization and work coordination, whose use allows today to allocate the resources and efforts of the Armenians spread all over the world for solution of numerous problems in homeland.

According to Asma Assad, about 18 million Syrians currently live in Syria, another 15 million residing in other countries. She said that the compatriots often express an intention to invest in the economy of their country, and a body like the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund can play a great role in Syria regarding this issue. Asma Assad stated with satisfaction that the Armenians of Syria have naturally integrated into the country's life.

According to a press release of the Hayastan Fund, the meeting was attended by the First Lady of Armenia Rita Sargsyan, the spouse of RA Foreign Minister Natalia Nalbandian, persons in charge of the Fund's Programs and PR Units.

### 23. LEADER OF THE TEHRAN DIOCESE SAYS THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OF TEHRAN WATCHFULLY FOLLOWS THE EVENTS AND CONTINUES TO LIVE A NATURAL LIFE [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

The Armenian Community of Tehran watchfully follows the events and continues to live its natural life, said the leader of Tehran Diocese of Armenian Apostolic Church archbishop Sepuh Sargsyan to the correspondent of Armenpress.

He noted that the representatives of Armenian community have not taken part in the post-election developments and there are no Armenians among the injured and arrested people. Only an Armenian young man was by mistake arrested a week ago who has already been set free in virtue of the efforts of Armenian MPs.

"We have today addressed a claim to the Armenian community informing that the Tehran Diocesan Council attentively follows the development of events and cases taken place during the latest days in the town and always defends the necessity of rule of law and importance of preservation of the integrity of the state. We urge the Tehran Armenian community to be peaceful, act as law-abiding citizens and keep their civil rights and responsibilities," the Archbishop noted.

He also informed that the leader of Cilicia Diocese Aram I also addressed a claim for watchfulness to the Armenian community.

## ARTS

### 24. PAINTER VAHAN ANANIAN'S EXHIBITION TO OPEN IN ODESSA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

The painter Vahan Ananian's personal exhibition entitled "Your Image is a Feast" will open at the Odessa City Show-room of the Bleshchunov Musuem of Personal Collections on June 22. In the words of art critic Liana Krishevskaya, "it is impossible to describe the works of Vahan Ananian by using some



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specific tradition, his works are beyond the trends of his time. Vahan is one of those painters who establish a tradition - they include the previous spiritual and artistic experience and take it with them in a manner peculiar only to them", Analitika information and analysis center reported.

## 25. BOOK ON ARMENIAN GENOCIDE BY BRYCE AND TOYNBEE TO BE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN LONDON AND ANKARA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

The English translation of the uncensored edition of the book "The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in 1915-1916. Documents Presented to Viscount Grey of Fallodon by Viscount Bryce" by James Bryce and Arnold Toynbee will be released next week in London and Ankara, Azg daily reported, referring to a report of Gomidas Institute (London).

Ara Sarafian is the editor of the 654-page book. Interestingly, in 2005, considering the book a "propaganda publication", Turkish parliamentarians filed a petition to British MPs, probably requesting not to publish an English translation. However, after some discussions British MPs rejected the petition in 2006, inviting their Turkish colleagues to consult with them. The members of Turkish parliament refused to meet with them.

## 26. ARMENIAN MUSIC LESSONS TO RESUME IN SEPTEMBER AT THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

Thanks to efforts of the teachers of the subject "Armenian music tradition" of University of Southern California and "Armenian Music Friends" group of the same university, Armenian music lessons will resume at the university's Thornton School of Music in September of this year. According to Asparez, the subject will be taught by Prof. Lusina Aghbabian. The course is intended not only for students.

The newspaper also reported that on the initiative of "Armenian Music Friends", 10th and 11th graders of six colleges in Los Angeles had an occasion to enjoy Armenian music at the Newman Hall of the university on March 2.

## RELIGION

## 27. NUMBER OF PARISH COMMUNITIES OF ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH IN RUSSIA REACHES 60 [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

The number of parish communities of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Russia has reached 60, Blagovest-Info reported, referring to Golos Armenii newspaper's interview with Bishop Yezras Nersesian, the Head of Nor Nakhijevan and Russian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Bishop Nersesian said in the interview that during the first years after his appointment as the head of Nor Nakhijevan and Russian Diocese, the diocese had seven priests in 10 parish communities registered at the Russian Ministry of Justice. Now 27 priests serve in the parish communities. Bishop Nersesian considered the construction of the Moscow church complex which began in 2006 as the greatest achievement. The complex will become the biggest spiritual educational and cultural structure of the Armenian Apostolic Church outside Armenia.

According to Bishop Nersesian, the diocese includes not only Russia's parish communities from Vladivostok to Kaliningrad, but also those in Baltic states, Belarus, Moldova and Central Asia. "During my years as the diocesan head, 15 churches were built and consecrated in cities where there had been no Armenian churches in the past, namely in Barnaul, Krasnoyarsk, Yaroslavl, Volgograd, Samara, Tver, Omsk, Vladivostok, Ulan-Ude, Sterlitamak, Saratov, Yekaterinburg, and Rostov-on-Don," the bishop said, addressing the problem of the preservation of Armenian identity. In his words, "our sacred duty is to unify the Armenian people around our Church, to maintain and ensure a link among the generations and between the present and the past, to bring God's Word to each parish, each human through the Gospel, to open schools and educational centers for our children, for the upbringing of the younger generation.

The most important task is unite the young persons around our national spiritual values. We must prevent Diasporan Armenians from moving away from their roots, and the faith helps preserve our identity".



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## SOCIAL

### 28. CONSULTATION HELD ON JUBILEE EVENTS DEDICATED TO 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIGRAN PETROSIAN'S BIRTH [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

Armenian President, Chairman of the Republican Chess Federation Serzh Sargsyan laid flowers at Monument to Tigran Petrosian on June 17 - the birthday of the world champion. Then the president watched a tournament, which was dedicated to the memory of the world-famous chess player. Armenian chess veterans, representatives of the Children's and Juvenile School of Chess, Olympic champions Artashes Minasian and Tigran Petrosian took part in the tournament.

According to the RA presidential press service, a consultation with the participation of Serzh Sargsyan and members of the Chairmanship of the Chess Federation was held on the same day to discuss the jubilee events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of T. Petrosian's birth.

### 29. TURKISH DOCTOR INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT "FROM HEALTH TO CONCILIATION" PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HER ARMENIAN COLLEAGUES [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

Aysen Erdil, an audiologist from Turkey's American Hospital, intends to cross the Armenian border and implement "From Health to Conciliation" program in partnership with her Armenian colleagues, Marmara reported citing Sabah daily (Turkey).

This year Erdil was a recipient of the Margaret Golding Award given to persons who have done important work for the benefit of others. Aysen Erdil was the fourth Turkish woman to receive this award. She founded a Symposion union to help with health problems of vulnerable families and children.

### 30. 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR RESUMES AT ARMENIAN HUMANITARIAN COLLEGE IN CALCUTTA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

After one month holidays, the doors of the Armenian Humanitarian College in Calcutta opened again to resume the 2009-2010 school year.

According to a report received from the college, being one of the oldest educational centers of the Diaspora and operating under the patronage of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, the college continues its educational activities in distant India and its doors are always open to Armenian pupils eager to get knowledge.

India-based Armenians, as well as those from Armenia, Iran and Iraq study at the Armenian Humanitarian College in Calcutta to acquire knowledge and receive an Armenian upbringing.

This year the college was replenished with a group of young men from Iraq and woman teachers invited from Armenia.

### 31. ARMENIA MAKES PROGRESS IN ITS ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/19/09]

"Armenia has made progress in its anti-trafficking efforts" is said in the U.S. Department of State's 2009 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report released by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on June 16.

According to a report of the U.S. embassy in Armenia, Armenia's annual ranking by TIP Report improved, with the country being removed from the Tier Two Watch List, where it had remained in 2005-2008, and elevated to the Tier Two category of the U.S. Department of State's four-tier ranking system.

The report notes that the Armenian government does not fully meet the minimum standards of trafficking elimination, although the country has taken serious steps in this direction. The U.S. Department of State welcomed the resumption of inquiry into the case of corruption related to trafficking in 2006, as well as the allocation of state funds for the protection of trafficking victims and increasing the society's awareness of trafficking dangers. The Department of State recommended that the Armenian government use the best experience and standards in international practice.

### 32. ARMENIA'S "TECH SCOUT" TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN "IMAGINE CUP" INTERNATIONAL CONTEST [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

The "Tech Scout" team of the American University of Armenia July 3-7 will participate in the "Imagine Cup" international student contest based on "Microsoft" technology which will take place in the capital of Egypt Cairo.



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The team is the winner of the Armenian round of the contest. An official from the Microsoft Armenia office told Armenpress that "Imagine Cup" is an annual contest which encourages young people to show their imagination and apply their creative skills suggesting innovative technology programs directed towards solution of urgent issues of the world. The best three teams will get money awards – the winner of the first place will get 25,000\$, of the second 10,000\$ and of the third place 5,000\$.

The competition is held already seven years and each year the final round of the contest is being organized in different countries. Last year more than 200,000 students from 100 countries participated in the contest.

## 33. MORE THAN 1000 YOUNG PEOPLE PRESENT AN INITIAL APPLICATION TO BE INVOLVED IN "AVAILABLE APARTMENT FOR THE YOUTH" PROJECT [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

More than 1000 preliminary applications have been got for the involvement in the "Available Apartment for the youth" project of the Armenian Sport and Youth Affairs Ministry. With the project state support is intended to be provided to the young families for purchasing an apartment through the hypothec crediting.

Chief specialist of the Ministry Armen Papian told Armenpress that at present the project is in the Armenian Government, after it is approved the participation terms and the sum of state's support will officially be issued.

From April 1 the Ministry spread an announcement on the reception of applications which aimed at discovering the demand quantity. After the project is approved the Ministry will again have meetings with the young people who have presented a preliminary application, the participation terms will be clarified, after which it will become clear how many young people will be involved in the project.

Beneficiaries can become 18-30 year old Armenian citizens and young families where at least the age of one of the couples is not more than 30 or a lonely parent of the same age who has a child. The Ministry continues to receive applications.

The Project objectives are to support the socially insecure young families in overcoming of the housing issues, to improve the demographic condition in Armenia, sharply to reduce emigration, to foster the system of hypothec crediting as well as contribute to the aiming realization of the existing housing fund.

## 34. ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF IJEVAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/22/09]

The neighboring surrounding of Ijevan town is rich with historical samples of Urartu period. An official from the Ijevan municipality told Armenpress that in August in administrative borders of the community, in the territory named "Kholhanqer" archeological excavations will be conducted by a group comprised from Iranian archeologists within the framework of inter-state contract.

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