



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. ARMENIAN POLICE TROOPS COMMANDER GAREGIN GABRIELIAN AWARDED BRAVERY MEDAL [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/22/09]

Under RA President Serzh Sargsyan's June 19 decree, on the occasion of Police Troops Day and for bravery shown when doing his official duties, RA Police Troops Commander, Deputy Head of RA Police, Major-General Garegin Gabrielian was awarded Bravery Medal. Noyan Tapan was informed about it by the RA President's Press Office.

2. FOUNDING CONGRESS OF ARMENAKAN-RAMKAVAR AZATAKAN PARTY HELD [Azg, 06/22/09]

The founding congress of the Armenakan-Ramkavar Azatakan Party was held at the big hall of the Tekeyan Center. Adoption of party's regulations and program, election of the Republican Board and supervising bodies were on the agenda.

RA President Serzh Sargsyan's Adviser Manuk Topuzian read President's greeting speech at the congress. And Azg daily's editor-in-chief Hakob Avetikian read the address of the Ramkavar-Azatakan Party East America and Canada Regional Board.

The congress elected Armen Manvelian Acting Chairman of the Armenakan-Ramkavar Azatakan Party. The congress also made a decision to convene an all Armenian, unifying congress this autumn, at which the issue of moving the Ramkavar-Azatakan Party center to the homeland will be raised.

3. ARMENIA GREATLY INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN NEAR EAST REGION [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/22/09]

A wide range of issues regarding development of bilateral relations in various spheres, cooperation at international organizations were discussed at the June 21 meeting of RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates Abdallah bin Zayed al Nahayan. It was mutually stressed that there is a high level of political dialogue between the two states, a serious potential of expansion of cultural cooperation.

E. Nalbandian said that Armenia being near to the a Near East region in the geopolitical respect, is greatly interested in establishment of peace and stability there.

The sides exchanged thoughts over issues of providing and strengthening security in the South Caucasus and Near East.

RA and UAE Foreign Ministers' meeting was followed by a ceremony of signing documents: the Foreign Ministers signed an agreement between the RA government and UAE government on donation of a land plot for the purpose of founding a diplomatic representation, as well as a memorandum on mutual understanding between the RA government and UAE government on freeing people having a diplomatic passport of the demand of having an entrance visa.

4. ALEXANDER ARZUMANIAN, SUREN SIRUNIAN, MYASNIK MALKHASIAN AND HAKOB HAKOBIAN RELEASED, AND SASUN MIKAYELIAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/22/09]

By the June 22 judgment of Yerevan Kentron and Nork-Marash communities general jurisdiction court, former RA Foreign Minister Alexander Arzumanyan and Suren Sirunian were sentenced to 5 and 4 years' imprisonment, respectively. However, by the use of the RA NA June 19 decision on granting an amnesty they got free of serving their punishment and were released at the court hall. At the same time the court found them guilty of the charge brought to them, organization of mass disorders (part 1, Article 225, RA Criminal Code).

The judgment can be appealed at the Criminal Appeal Court in a month's term. After being released, at short press briefings with journalists at the court hall A. Arzumanyan and S. Sirunian stated that they will appeal against the judgment without fail. S. Sirunian also said: "We were against the amnesty, we had committed no crime, for which they were to forgive us."



The decision on amnesty was also used on two more cases at the same court. NA deputy Hakob Hakobian sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment by the judgment got free of serving his punishment by being found guilty on part 1, Article 225, RA Criminal Code. NA deputy Myasnik Malkhasian was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on the charge of organizing mass disorders and by part 2, Article 38-316 of assisting use of violence to a power representative dangerous for his life and health, was acquitted and got free of serving punishment. The deputies were set free at the court hall.

No amnesty was used to NA deputy Sasun Mikayelian, as Kotayk region general jurisdiction court found him guilty on part 2, Article 235, RA Criminal Code (keeping illegal arms, ammunition by a group of people by a preliminary agreement), and that article was not subject to amnesty. S. Mikayelian was also found guilty of organizing mass disorders (part 1, Article 225) Finally the court sentenced S. Mikayelian to 8 years' imprisonment.

5. ARMENIAN POLICE RESPONDS TO DISINFORMATION OF AZERBAIJANI MASS MEDIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

Armenian Police considers the “details” of the tragedy taken place in the New Village of the Kotayk province reported by the Azerbaijani electronic mass media as disinformation. “The Azerbaijani electronic mass media which are known especially with the “hobby” of spreading false and provocative news about Armenia, have spread one of their numerous disinformation which aims at spreading national distrust in the country,” says the message of the Armenian Police provided to Armenpress. It is noted that this time the Azerbaijani mass medias focused on the tragedy taken place June 6 in the New Village of Kotayk province when 4 members of the family of Hasoyans were killed.

“The Azerbaijani mass media enumerating horrifying, but in reality extremely made up “details” say that the Armenian media are silent about this crime. And this in a case when the Armenian police spread the information on the mentioned crime on June 8. The discovery of the crime made on speculative aims was followed by the second – a more extended publication on 10 June.

The Azerbaijani media could not have been unaware of this reality, who taking the baton of irresponsible statements from some Kurdish organizations continue to misrepresent the facts and realities the result of which this time was the villain and disguising lie,” the message says.

6. THE MEETING OF ARMENIAN AND AZERBAIJANI FOREIGN MINISTERS E. NALBANDIAN AND E. MAMEDYAROV TO TAKE PLACE JUNE 26 IN PARIS [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

The meeting of Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers Edward Nalbandyan and Elmar Mamedyarov will take place June 26 in Paris. Press Secretary of the Armenian Foreign Ministry Tigran Balayan told Armenpress that the core issues of discussion will be the negotiation process of Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation. The Armenian Foreign Minister is intended to meet the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs Yuri Merzlyakov (Russia), Bernard Fassier (France) and Matthew Bryza (USA).

The Nagorno Karabakh conflict arose in 1991 when in response to the demand of the Nagorno Karabakh population for the self-determination the Azerbaijani authorities tried to regulate the issue by implementation of ethnic infiltrations and military actions covered by the implementation of the passport regime by the Soviet security forces, which resulted in thousands of victims and notable material losses.

In 1994 a ceasefire was signed. At present the conflict regulation negotiations are held with the mediation of OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs based on the Madrid principals proposed by the co-chairing states in November 2007.

7. RECEPTION OF PARTICIPANTS OF CABIR REGIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS TAKES PLACE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

On the invitation of the Deputy Armenian Foreign Minister Karine Ghazinyan today the participants of CABIR (Capacity Building in International Relations) regional project which is being implemented in the South Caucasus by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC) visited the Foreign Ministry.

Media relations department of Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that the project involved courses dedicated to the international relations and aims at the professional training of young state servants in the South Caucasian states. This year the courses are being held June 20-July 3 in Armenia with the participation of 12 Armenian and 6 Georgian state servants selected on the tender order.



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The CABIR project is being organized since 1997 by the Graduated Institute of International Studies of Geneva. By now 300 people took part in the project 79 of which are from Armenia.

8. DELEGATION HEADED BY THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARMAN KIRAKOSIAN TO LEAVE FOR VIENNA [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

The delegation of Armenian Foreign Ministry headed by the Deputy Minister Arman Kirakosian will June 23-24 take part in the OSCE annual conference of security assessment in Vienna.

Media relations department of Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that during this event which has already become traditional discussions are intended on the improvement of security concept in Europe, modernization of mechanisms of armament oversight in the OSCE territory, present situation and prospects of conflict regulation, fight against the international terrorism and other issues.

9. THERE IS NO OFFICIAL DOCUMENT ON THE NAGORNO KARABAKH CONFLICT PRESENTED BY AZERBAIJAN TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

There is no official document on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict presented by Azerbaijan to the UN General Assembly.

With the request of Armenpress referring to the information according to which Azerbaijan is going to put a resolution in the circulation of UN General Assembly the Permanent representative of Armenia to the UN Armen Martirosian noted that there is no activeness in the UN on the Nagorno Karabakh issue and because the Karabakh conflict negotiations are held on the level of Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents and Foreign Ministers under the patronage of OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, the representation of Azerbaijan in the institution undertook no steps yet.

According to A. Martirosian the Nagorno Karabakh issue is being discussed within the frameworks Minsk Group and there is no necessity to discuss the issue of changes in its format in the UN.

10. PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA MIKHAIL SAAKASHVILI TO PAY JUNE 24 AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ARMENIA [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 06/23/09]

On the invitation of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on June 24 the President of Georgia and his wife Ms. Sandra Rulovs will pay a two-day official visit to Armenia.

Presidential press office told Armenpress that on the same day an official meeting ceremony will take place in the President's residence which will be followed by the face-to-face talk of the Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Mikhail Saakashvili. Following to that the extended meeting of the official delegations will take place after which the Armenian and Georgian Presidents will have a joint press conference.

At the evening June 24 the Armenian President and Ms. Rita Sargsyan will host an official supper in honor to the Georgian President and Ms. Sandra Rulovs.

Within the frameworks of the official visit the Georgian President will visit memorial complex to the Great Genocide and put flowers to the memory of the victims. Afterwards Mikhail Saakashvili will meet the professors' staff and the students in the Yerevan State University.

On June 25 the Georgian President will wrap up his visit to Armenia.

11. ELMAR MAMEDYAROV NOT EXCLUDE THE SIGNING OF A CIRCLE AGREEMENT ON KARABAKH CONFLICT TILL THE END OF THE YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

Azerbaijani Foreign Affairs Minister Elmar Mamedyarov didn't exclude the signing of a circle agreement on Karabakh conflict till the end of the year.

"If it doesn't take place, the Azerbaijani side will not be responsible for it. Azerbaijan wants to sign suchlike document", - Mamedyarov said today.

Referring to the issue of the meeting of Azerbaijani and Armenian Foreign Ministers, he noted that it will take place June 26 in Paris with participation of the co-chairmen of OSCE Minsk group.

"At the meeting we will discuss the ways of peaceful regulation of the conflict and the preparation of the next meeting of the president", the Azerbaijani Foreign Affairs Minister said.



12. AZERBAIJAN AND SERBIA SPEAK IN FAVOR OF SOLUTION OF KOSOVO AND NAGORNO KARABAKH CONFLICTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL RIGHT [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

Azerbaijan and Serbia are for the solution of Kosovo and Nagorno Karabakh conflicts in accordance with international right and principles, Azerbaijani Foreign Affairs Minister Elmar Mamedyarov said today after the meeting with his Serbian counterpart Vuk Yeric.

During the negotiations Azerbaijani and Serbian Foreign Affairs Ministers discussed these two conflicts. "Serbia presented to Azerbaijan its principles of solution of Kosovo problem, and Azerbaijan presented its viewpoint on Karabakh conflict regulation", - Mamedyarov said.

13. ARMENIAN DEPUTY FM: "ARMENIA CONTINUES ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH AZERBAIJAN NOT EXCLUDING THAT THE LATTER WILL SOONER OR LATER DISPLAY CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY" [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 06/23/09]

US co-chairman of OSCE Minsk group Matthew Bryza in an interview with "Reuters" news agency on the issue of Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation didn't exclude the possibility of signing a peace treaty by the end of the running year. In connected with it, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mamedyarov stated that if by the end of the year circle peaceful agreement is not signed, the Azerbaijani side will not be responsible for it.

Commenting on the above-mentioned statements Armenian Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan noted that everyone is used to the fact that Mr. Bryza's statements are usually edited or rejected at that time or some time later. "The time will show what Mr. Bryza meant and what he wanted to say. As to the statement of Mamedyarov, the Azerbaijani side is guilty that during all these years an agreement has not been signed. Armenia continues negotiations, as it does not exclude that sooner or later Azerbaijan will display a constructive position. But Mr. Mamedyarov statement shows the opposite – Azerbaijan's intention to go on with the unconstructive policy and to try to put its own guilt on Armenia", - Armenian Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister noted.

14. ZHARANGUTIUN DEMANDS RECREATING FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE WITH INVOLVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS [Aravot, 06/23/09]

The Zharangutiun (Heritage) party demands recreating the fact-finding committee of experts with involvement of international experts. According to party Board Chairwoman Anahit Bakhshian, after NA's passing the decision On Granting an Amnesty it became more than actual to disclose the tragic events of the 2008 March 1-2 in Yerevan, in particular, the death circumstances of 10 persons. In her letter to the RA President A. Bakhshian mentioned that disclosure of those murders remains not only the demand of society and political forces, but also the commitment assumed by Armenia towards international structures.

15. OPPOSITION NOT TO AGREE TO CONDUCT DIALOGUE WITH AUTHORITIES UNTIL THERE IS EVEN ONE POLITICAL PRISONER IN ARMENIA [Haykakan Zhamanak, 06/23/09]

The Armenian National Congress will not agree to conduct a dialogue with the authorities until there is even if one political prisoner in Armenia. ANC representative David Shahnazarian stated at the June 23 press conference.

In his words, if even to put it very diplomatically, the amnesty granted lately cannot be considered as amnesty. D. Shahnazarian said that according to Congress' calculations, 20 of organization activists will be kept imprisoned, which is an unsuccessful attempt by the authorities to keep some levers on the opposition. The ANC representative stated that the opposition will continue struggling until the release of the last person and gave assurance that they all will be released very soon. In his words, the authorities will have to do it not under a pressure from outside, but under people's pressure.

D. Shahnazarian said that there were two reasons for granting an amnesty: people's activity and discussion of the issue on Armenia's democratic institutions at the PACE summer session. In his opinion, no sanctions will be used to Armenia, but the country will remain under monitoring.



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16. USA REGARDS THE DECLARED AMNESTY AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

The United States views the June 19 amnesty declaration as a positive development. With the request of Armenpress assessing the fact of the amnesty declaration by the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan through the application of his constitutional right and with the approval of the Armenian Parliament the Head of the Public relations department of the USA Embassy to Armenia Tom Mitnacht noted: "We welcome the amnesty and the subsequent release of ex-Foreign Minister Arzumanyan, two members of the National Assembly, and 12 other opposition supporters. We look forward to additional releases as implementation of the amnesty goes forward, and encourage further steps to ease political tension and open the way for constructive dialogue."

17. AS OF JUNE 23, 103 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM THE CRIMINAL-EXECUTIVE ESTABLISHMENTS OF ARMENIAN JUSTICE MINISTRY [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

As of June 23, 103 people have been set free from the criminal-executive establishments of Armenian Justice Ministry according to the NA June 19 decision "On announcing amnesty".

Public relations department of the Criminal-Executive division of the Armenian Justice Ministry told Armenpress that according to the point 7 of the decision "On announcing amnesty" the punishment years of 4 people have been shortened.

As of June 23, 31 people have been set free from the "Nubarashen" criminal-executive establishment, in "Artik" – 5, and the punishment years of two have been shortened, 22 people have been set free from "Vardashen" and the punishment years of 1 have been shortened, 7 people have been set free from the "Hospital of imprisoned people", 5 women have been set free from the women's department of "Abovian" criminal-executive establishment, from the teenagers' department – 3, and 7 people have been set free from "Meghri".

18. EDWARD NALBANDYAN TO LEAVE FOR PARIS [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan will pay a working visit to Paris June 26-27. Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that in Paris Edward Nalbandyan will meet with the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mamedyarov and OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs.

June 27-28 in Corfu (Greece) E. Nalbandyan will participate in the meeting of the OSCE foreign ministers dedicated to the discussion of the cooperation issues and security systems in Europe.

19. G. GYURJYAN DISMISSED FROM THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY CULTURE MINISTER [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan dismissed Gagik Gyurjyan from the office of the deputy culture minister, governmental press service reported.

20. THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS OF USA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT TO THE PARITY PRINCIPAL OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

During the June 23 session the Committee of Appropriations of USA House of Representatives approved the Section 907 of Freedom Support Act for the 2010 Fiscal Year.

An official from the Armenian Assembly of America told Armenpress that the Committee has also approved the 48 million USD support to Armenia and 10 million – to Nagorno Karabakh. The military assistance will reach 3 million USD and 450 000 USD will be provided for the military education projects. On the decision of the Committee the parity principal of military assistance given to Armenia and Azerbaijan will be preserved.

Executive Director of Armenian Assembly of America Bryan Ardouny expressed gratitude to the Chairwoman Nita Lowey for her leadership on Armenian issues, as well as Congressmen Adam Schiff and Mark Kirk for today's outcome, which can contribute to the peaceful regulation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict and confidence building between the sides."

A vote in the House on the 2010 Fiscal Year is expected as early as next week.

The Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act was adopted thanks to the active work of the Armenian lobby institutions in 1992.



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Registering Azerbaijan's active participation in the blockade policy of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh the USA Congress made the 907 amendment in the Freedom Support Act with which providing of other type of assistance to the Azerbaijani government has been banned.

The Conditional waiver of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act makes it clear that any assistance provided shall not "undermine or hamper" the Karabakh peace process or "be used for offensive purposes against Armenia" or any "Armenian community in the Caucasus region."

21. "HOT LINE" FUNCTIONS IN THE ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT'S STAFF [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

"Hot line" functions in the Armenian Government's staff through which citizens may apply in case they rights have been violated by the republican executive bodies, their territorial services and territorial government bodies.

Public relations department of Armenian Government told Armenpress that the "hot line" phone number is 527-000 or hotline@gov.am mail address.

BUSINESS

22. YEREVAN AND ABU DHABI SHOULD CONTINUE DEVELOPING BILATERAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MUTUAL INVESTMENTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/22/09]

On June 21, RA NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamian met with Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates Abdallah bin Zayed al Nahayan, who is in Yerevan on a working visit. At the meeting, the interlocutors highly assessed the level of bilateral political relations and expressed satisfaction on that occasion. At the same time they said that interparliamentary contacts should be developed and mutual visits of the two countries' legislators should be organized.

Touching upon the world financial-economic crisis, the sides held the same opinion that in consideration of that challenge, Yerevan and Abu Dhabi should continue developing bilateral trade and economic cooperation and implementation of mutual investments.

23. IMF APPROVES INCREASE IN ARMENIA'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO \$822.7 MILLION [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today completed the first review of Armenia's economic performance under a Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) and approved an increase in the IMF's financial support to an amount equivalent to SDR 533.6 million (about US\$822.7 million; or 580 percent of Armenia's quota). An official from the IMF Armenian office told Armenpress that these decisions enable the immediate release of SDR 102.7 million (about US\$158.3 million), bringing the total disbursed to SDR 264.2 million (about US\$400 million). The Board also granted a waiver of performance criteria on net banking system credit to the government and the program's fiscal balance.

The revised arrangement will support the government's economic program amid a sharper-than-expected impact from the global financial crisis. The 28-month SBA was approved on March 6.

The key objectives of the program are to help Armenia adjust to the external shock, maintain confidence in the currency and the financial system, and protect the poor. The sharp contraction in economic activity, the fall in remittances, an increase in unemployment, and difficult conditions in credit markets require an easing of macroeconomic policies and the implementation of several measures to stimulate domestic demand and create new jobs.

Following the Executive Board's discussion on Armenia, Mr. Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, stated: "Since the approval of the stand-by arrangement in March 2009, the external economic outlook has deteriorated significantly for Armenia. Falling private transfers and capital inflows have aggravated external imbalances and affected household incomes and investor confidence. Construction activity, the main driver of growth in previous years, has collapsed, and the economy is experiencing a deep contraction.

"The additional financial assistance from the Fund will help cover Armenia's growing financing needs, while the recalibration of the authorities' economic program will help them better respond to the deepening downturn. The program envisages an easing of monetary and fiscal policy to mitigate the severity of the crisis, while laying the ground for future fiscal consolidation primarily through one-off investment expenditures and measures to strengthen tax policy and administration. The authorities



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remain firmly committed to achieving the program's objectives of adjusting to the changed external environment, supporting confidence in the currency and the banking system, and protecting the poor.

"Following the successful return to a flexible exchange rate, monetary policy will focus on maintaining low inflation. With the fall in inflation rates, the recent reductions of policy interest rates are appropriate. In addition, the authorities are taking active measures to provide liquidity to the banking system and help resume lending. Fiscal policy will provide crucial support by accelerating growth-enhancing investment in infrastructure and strengthening social safety nets.

"As external conditions improve in 2010, growth is expected to resume gradually. The short-term outlook remains, however, very challenging. Continued reforms will be necessary to boost the medium-term growth potential of the economy, including efforts to improve the business climate, completion of the unfinished tax policy and tax administration reform agenda, and progress on financial sector reforms," M Portugal said.

24. PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN PARTICIPATES IN OPENING OF "TOYOTA-YEREVAN" CAR-SHOWING HALL [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan participated today in the opening ceremony of "Toyota-Yerevan" car-showing hall and service center.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the president traveled in the hall, spoke with the representatives of the company over the issues on the activity of "Toyota-Yerevan".

25. NEGOTIATIONS ARE HELD WITH SWISS AND AUSTRIAN COMPANIES OVER CONSTRUCTION OF CABLE-WAY ON THE HALIDZOR CANYON [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

At present negotiations are held with the Swiss and Austrian companies over construction of a cable-way on the Halidzor canyon of Goris region.

Head of the tourism office of Armenian National Competitiveness Council Armen Hovhannissian told Armenpress that the construction works are intended to start already this year and are considered to be finished next year. The cable-way is being constructed within the frameworks of "Tatev Temple: Rebirth and Development" program the key objectives being the restoration and reconstruction of Tatev temple which will in its turn contribute to the development of tourism in the southern territories of the state.

A hotel complex is also intended to be constructed at the beginning of cable-way. The project involves the restoration of Tatev monastic complex which existed in the middle-age period; it will be nearby the Tatev temple according to the initial variant. The restoration of "Great Desert" convent is also taken under the attention.

According to A. Hovhannissian, if the construction of the cable-way will be possible by the end of the next year the reconstruction of the Tatev temple demands more serious studies and works.

The cable-way to be constructed claims to become the longest one in the region stretched for 5.5 km. There is such a construction of nearly 5 km in Europe. It will have 10meters/second speed which will give an opportunity within 10 minutes to pass through the Vorotan canyon and significantly to reduce the 45-55 minutes which will be needed to pass the twisted road by car. The highest point of the cable-way will be 500 meters.

Construction of the cable-way will not only give an opportunity to shorten the time to the monastic complex but also will make the tour interesting and comfortable. The hotel complex to be constructed will serve for the tourists traveling to the southern parts of the country. The implementation of the project will give an opportunity to create new job places, expand Armenian tourism geography to the south, develop the local economy and to promote the community life.

Construction of this air transportation means is involved in the frameworks of "Reconstruction of Tatev Monastic Complex" project of nearly 20 million USD price. The sum is intended to be involved from "Armenia 2020", "Arga", "Friends of Rouben and Veronica Vardanians" foundations. The project is coordinated by the National Competitiveness Council of Armenia.

26. THANKS TO THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT "SOURCIO" COMPANY IS ABLE TO CONFRONT THE CRISIS [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

Thanks to the support provided by the Armenian Government the "Sourcio" company is able to confront the crisis. Head of the company Hovhannes Avoyan told Armenpress that now "Sourcio" is able



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to function in a more confident way and has greater opportunities to bear the competition and have a notable growth in the market.

The Government had allocated 125 million drams to the “Sourcio” company which deals with the diagnosing of internet nets, rapid solution of computer problems and providing of a number of suchlike services.

H. Avoyan informed that “Sourcio” already presents a new software product which has been presented during the “DigiTec Business 2009” forum which took place lately.

“With the sum provided by the government we will start making greater expenditures on the marketing and sale volumes as a result of which we intend to have a greater role and be much more known in the international market. Now we will start promoting our sale in the USA and Europe,” he said.

According to H. Avoyan, “Sourcio” entirely consumes its products in the foreign markets. Well known companies such as car producing “Porsche” and “Swarovski” which deals with the procession of precious stones are among the consumers of the software solutions of the company.

He said that the product of the company finds no consumption in the Armenian market which is conditioned by the absence of demand and limited implementation of IT technologies.

“Now we wish to sell our product in the Armenian market as well. I think they will be interesting especially for the banks, management organizations, electric nets and the post-office,” he noted.

27. T. DAVTIAN SAYS THE ARMENIAN GDP INDEXES FOR THIS YEAR TO BE IN NEGATIVE FIGURES [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

The GDP results for this year’s general indexes will be in negative figures. During today’s opening ceremony of “Toyota Yerevan” vehicle saloon and service center the Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtian told journalists that the overall volume to be registered is after all dependent upon the works to be done, the dynamics of world economy and business behavior.

According to the Minister, the economy condition is reflected on the revenues and the GDP/budget revenues correlation corresponds to the established situation. This year the budget deficit will be greater than it was intended to.

“The deficit will be covered with the financial means involved from abroad to ensure the expenditures are not reduced much. The budget credits will be involved in four main directions – the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund and Russia (already received stabilization credit),” T. Davtian noted.

T. Davtian added that the credits from four directions are quite serious sums and will give an opportunity to cover the budget deficit. Due to it the expenditures will be preserved on a level which exists after the trimester movement. New revision of budget is not intended.

28. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER GETS ACQUAINTED WITH THE WORKS OF “VANADZOR-CHIMPROM” COMPANY [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan paid today a working visit to Vanadzor where he visited the “Vanadzor-Chimprom” company to get acquainted with the works conducted here and the process of construction of a new workshop of cover-panel production.

The Prime Minister walked round the thermo-electric station of the company and the chemistry factory where he was presented already implemented programs and the terms of finishing them.

During the briefing which was followed by a consultation Tigran Sargsyan informed journalists that a number of basic agreements have been reached during the consultation. First the Armenian Agriculture Ministry must work out a complex program on the production of fertilizers. He assessed that the Vanadzor chemical complex is able to produce fertilizers which are strictly necessary for the Armenian Agriculture. According to him, this complex project will give an opportunity to schedule the development of the agriculture sphere based on the local fertilizers.

The Armenian Prime Minister said that the factory has been tasked to work out complex programs in the four main directions in which it can develop – production of fertilizers, construction materials, carbide and a number of other materials having great export potential.

T. Sargsyan noted that the construction materials produced here will be used for the construction in the disaster zone and the constructed workshop will have a great capacity.

According to T. Sargsyan an investment of 6 million USD is necessary so that the factory has profitability.



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The head of the “Vanadzor-Chimprom” thermo-electric station Edik Hunanian said the workshops of cover-panels and fertilizers are already ready for 90%. The other works are in a rapid and sustainable process.

29. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF “BRIDGE ARTSAKH” NAGORNO KARABAKH AND ARMENIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTERS CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS OVER URGENT ISSUES OF THE SPHERE [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

Within the frameworks of “Bridge Artsakh” economic forum which took place June 20-21 in Stepanakert the Nagorno Karabakh Agriculture Minister Armo Tsaturian had concerned discussions with his Armenian counterpart Gerasim Alaverdian over a number of urgent issues of the sphere.

A. Tsaturian told Armenpress that the purchase of agro-engineering was among the discussed issues; for this aim agreements have been reached with the foreign organizations registered in Armenia.

A. Tsaturian also noted that in the nearest future with the means of the Armenian Government machine-tractor stations are intended to be established in different regions of Armenia; within the frameworks of the project the Armenian Agriculture Minister promised to establish one of them in Artsakh.

A. Tsaturian also informed that during the discussions issues on the purveyance, reprocessing, export prospects of agro-product as well as modern international means of involvement of bank capital for the development of agriculture have also been referred to.

30. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO PROVIDE CREDIT MEANS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES OF YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

With the credit means of the Asian development bank a program of development of Yerevan transportation infrastructures is intended to be implemented during the upcoming years. For that aim a corresponding memorandum has lately been signed between the sides.

Assistant to the Yerevan mayor Ashot Mnatsakanian told Armenpress that short and long-term cooperation projects are today intended with the Asian Development Bank but among them two have been chosen as priorities. Within the frameworks of one of them the “Yeritasardakan” station of the Yerevan metropolitan will have the second entrance at the cross-road of Sayat Nova-Abovian streets. Within the frameworks of the second project road construction works are intended to be conducted connecting a number of Yerevan streets to the Ashtarak and Artashat highways.

Preparation works will be implemented in the nearest future, the international experts will conduct consultation, the project terms and credit provisions will be clarified and the credit agreement will be drafted. The practical works are intended to start already in 2010.

According to A. Mnatsakanian on the preliminary assessments 47 million USD will be needed for the road construction works and 35 million USD for the construction of the new entrance of the “Yeritasardakan” station.

“It is not yet clear how much credit resource and for how long will be provided to Armenia. Only after the consultants finish their work it will be possible to speak about the loan provisions but we hope that we will make use of the privileged credit as this will be a loan resource provided to a state,” A. Mnatsakanian said.

31. CONFERENCE ON THE WORLD CRISIS TO KICK OFF [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

Conference on the global financial-economic crisis and its consequences kicked off today within the framework of UN.

The conference will be wrapped up by the adoption of the conclusive document. President of the 63-th session of UN General Assembly Miguel d'Escoto Brockman stated at Tuesday press conference that the document must get wide support of the international community.

DIASPORA

32. ARAM I CATHOLICOS GIVES BOOK ABOUT ARMENIAN GENOCIDE TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/22/09]

Great House of Cilicia Catholicos Aram I met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy Franco Frattini in Rome within the framework of the conference preceding the G8 Summit.



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The meeting proceeded in a friendly atmosphere. His Holiness Patriarch and the Italian Minister discussed issues regarding the current situation in the Middle East, in the light of new political developments and approaches between Iran and Israel, as well as the current situation in Lebanon after the parliamentary elections.

According to the Catholicosate of Antelias, at the end of the meeting His Holiness the Patriarch gave an important book about Armenian Genocide to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

33. FIRST GROUP OF DIASPORA ARMENIAN YOUTH TO ARRIVE IN ARMENIA JULY 15 ON THE "COME HOME" PROGRAM [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 06/23/09]

Within the frameworks of the "Come Home" program of the Armenian Diaspora Ministry the first group of Diaspora Armenian young people, who have previously presented applications, will July 15 arrive in Armenia. During today's meeting with journalists the Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan noted that according to the preliminary agreement nearly 100 people will be hosted in the families of Yerevan and neighboring regions.

Selection of hosting families has been conducted based on the previously adopted standards. According to the Minister the works of study of the housing and ethical-psychological conditions of these families have entirely been conducted and "they are ready to carry the temporary but pleasant responsibility."

"They with great enthusiasm wait for the youth. Each family has already worked out a plan of events for them within the frameworks of which the hosted young person will visit the places of interest of Armenia," H. Hakobyan said.

The Diaspora Armenian youth will arrive in Armenia from Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Russia, Ukraine, France, USA, Belarus and Georgia. The working groups will regularly follow their everyday life.

34. HRANUSH HAKOBIAN: MINISTRY OF DIASPORA HAS BEEN CREATED FOR COOPERATING AND MAKING JOINT DECISIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/23/09]

Studying the Armenian Diaspora, understanding its problems and peculiarities is among the goals of RA Ministry of Diaspora activity. Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian reported at the June 23 press conference dedicated to the work done by the Ministry in the first half of 2009 adding that Ministry's mission is to carry out state policy aimed at deepening and development of Diaspora-Homeland cooperation.

According to the Minister, as a result of the analyses it was found out that today the Diaspora has a number of problems, in particular, problem of forgetting the mother tongue, reduction of the number of pupils at Armenian schools. "Therefore the Ministry tries to work out programs that will be useful for the Diaspora as far as possible. Meanwhile we realize that Diaspora's abilities, strength and possibilities should serve for Armenia's strengthening," H. Hakobian said. In her words, some people in Diaspora thought that the Ministry was created to rule, to control the Diaspora. "I am announcing: the Ministry has come to speak, to cooperate, to discuss and to make joint decisions," the Minister said.

Besides, according to H. Hakobian, we should make the Diaspora more cognizable in Armenia and vice versa. She said that Ministry's electronic newspaper, Hayern Aysor should have an important role in solving the above mentioned problem. "Through the newspaper we try not only to present Ministry's activity, but also the most important events taking place in the Diaspora are included in our periodical," H. Hakobian said adding that the newspaper already has foreign correspondents working and cooperating as volunteers.

35. RA MINISTER OF DIASPORA CONVINCED THAT ALL ARMENIAN CONFERENCES TO GIVE POSITIVE RESULTS FAVORABLE FOR NATION [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/23/09]

An All Armenian Association of Architects and Builders was created as a result of the All Armenian Conference of Architects held on April 21-24 in Yerevan. RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian reported at the June 23 press conference. In her words, at present Armenian architects work at the elaboration of the creative project City of the World proposed by the RA Prime Minister.

H. Hakobian added that another two conferences will be held this year: a conference of lawyers will be held in September and of bankers, financiers and businessmen in November. The Minister expressed the hope that those conferences will also give as much positive results favorable for the nation. She said that an attempt is made to create professional networks, through which all international



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tendencies and processes will be moved to the homeland and will contribute to Armenia's development and strengthening.

Passports of well-known organizations of Armenian communities of Diaspora, America, Europe, CIS, Near East and Middle East are made and periodically updated at Ministry's respective departments. There are nearly 30 thousand Armenian organizations worldwide, and collection of complete information about them and making up their passports is one of Ministry's primary tasks.

H. Hakobian said that in the first half of 2009 the Ministry introduced a number of legislative initiatives. In particular, RA bill On Making Amendments and Addenda to the RA Law On Foreigners was submitted to the RA National Assembly. Besides, RA bill On Making Amendments and Addenda to the RA Law On Citizens not Doing Compulsory Military Service with Violation of Established Order was worked out jointly with the RA Defence Ministry, which has been already passed and come into force. Another draft decision passed on Ministry's initiative gave a possibility to 21 young people currently studying at the Mechitarist Educational Complex of Mechitarist Congregation to receive a deferment from compulsory military service.

36. IRANIAN ARMENIAN ARCHITECT VARUZHAN ARAKELIAN: CURRENT MIGRATION OF ARMENIANS FROM IRAN WEAKENS COMMUNITY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/23/09]

Iranian Armenian architect Varuzhan Arakelian was born in 1934 in Tabriz. From his youth he was a member of various public and library organizations, was a member and chairman of various national structures of Tabriz. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Union of Armenian Architects. He takes an active part in the restoration work of Armenian cultural monuments in the territory of Iran. In his interview to the Hayern Aysor electronic newspaper Varuzhan Arakelian presented some details regarding Iranian Armenian community's current condition.

- Mr Arakelian, how would you characterize the Iranian Armenian community? What problems does it have?

- The Iranian Armenian community is very old, it has centuries-old history, thus it is difficult to "fit" it into the notion of Diaspora, as the Diaspora as such was formed especially after the Armenian Genocide. And historian Arakel Davrizhetsi already touched upon the history of Nor Jugha and Atrpatakan. I will mention that at first these territories were completely populated with Armenians. The Armenian community did not feel itself a national minority at all then, as it was rather big and strong, but the situation changed completely in the past two decades. The former strong community became weak especially because of large-scale migration.

Certainly, today the community has problems and difficulties, but the main concern is migration. Migration (especially as birth rate has also fallen considerably) has rather a negative impact on both community's volume (which, certainly, weakens its social and political strength) and might.

The current migration to the U.S., Europe, Canada and other countries has rather a negative impact especially on people remaining in Iran. The formed situation has an impact on community's public and union life, on charity organizations, university unions and other structures.

- As an urban development specialist and architect, how would you estimate the condition of Armenian historic-cultural monuments in the territory of Iran and their keeping? Aren't they defiled or destroyed in a non-Christian country?

- For thousands of years Persia has been a cradle of culture and a free country for various religions and confessions. History confirms that Armenians lived here not as newcomers, but as natives with all their rights. Perhaps that is why it is difficult to include Iranian Armenians in the term "Diaspora." It can be said that Armenians have lived here for many centuries, the live witnesses of which are hundreds of monuments in this territory as Armenian people's cultural heritage.

Monuments are kept and preserved, as well as restored here as a result of Iranian authorities' careful attitude, and it is not accidental that thanks to hard work of many years it became possible to fix as monuments of international value two Armenian historic churches, Surb Tade and Surb Stepanos and Tsor-Tsor Surb Astvatsatsin Church with its seven adjacent constructions, including ruins of the Darashamb Armenian populated area at the intersection of Tghmut and Araks, village's church, cemetery and other churches at the UNESCO conference held in 2008 June in the city of Quebec, Canada.

Indeed the Islamic Republic of Iran is rather a free country in the respect of protection of rights of religious and national minorities, its brightest evidence is that we, Armenians, solemnly celebrate Surb Vardanants Holiday, which, as you know, glorifies Armenians' victory against Sasanian Persia.

- I have heard for many times about pilgrimages organized and carried out in various Armenian sacred places of Iran. How are they organized?



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- Pilgrimage as such emerged in 1954, exactly 55 years ago. It was especially crowded within the framework of the events dedicated to the 1700th anniversary of Christianity. A great festivity was organized. The main goal of the pilgrimages is perhaps to constantly keep the sacred places in the focus of attention and to acquaint the Armenian youth with Armenian culture and especially sacred culture.

- Mr Arakelian, what is your opinion of the architectural solutions of construction carried out in Yerevan? What can you say about modern Armenian architecture?

- There are very many violations, capital city's face has been distorted to a considerable extent, the panorama of capital city's heart, square, has been damaged. I don't know who and why has disregarded the most elementary urban development norms, but to restore them will be much more difficult today than if they had not been committed. It is perhaps evidence of either lack of urban development laws or their being incomplete. I must say that you cannot see such kinds and number of urban development norms violations in any other country of the world.

Neither urban development nor construction norms are kept at newly built districts, individual demands necessary for person's well-being are disregarded. It is clear that we cannot correct everything at once and naturally, we cannot at once introduce here laws operating in other countries, for instance, in the U.S. However, the norms should be revised, clarified and carried out without fail. We can say that today Yerevan is gasping, as green zones have decreased very much. In a conversation with RA Chief Architect Narek Sargsian we spoke about arrangement of city's buildings.

- What can you say about the all Armenian gathering of architects organized by the RA Ministry of Diaspora? What expectations do you have from this gathering?

- I think that first we should congratulate the formation of this newly created structure, RA Ministry of Diaspora, as it had the status of committee before this and now is already a ministry. We are also glad that such a skilled, clever and competent person, Mrs Hakobian has been appointed head of the structure so important for the Diaspora. I think the main task for the Ministry of Diaspora is the return of Armenians, their return to the Homeland, with the motto "return to the Homeland." Let's not forget Silva Kaputikian's words "To whom do we leave our graves and go away?"

I think this all Armenian gathering of architects was very important in the respect of consolidating Armenian architects worldwide, as well as introducing them to each other and bringing them together. The most important achievement of this gathering was that an All Armenian Union of Architects was created. If this union indeed operates and exactly carries out its mission, I am sure that many things will be given a positive solution.

Raffi N.M.

37. ISRAEL'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. CALLS ARMENIAN KILLINGS "GENOCIDE" [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/23/09] By Harut Sassounian, Publisher, The California Courier

Israel's new Ambassador to the United States, Michael B. Oren, is a firm believer in the veracity of the Armenian Genocide, despite his government's denialist position on this issue.

Prior to his ambassadorial appointment, Oren repeatedly confirmed the facts of the Armenian Genocide in his writings. In the May 10, 2007 issue of the New York Review of Books, he wrote a highly positive review of Taner Akcam's book: "A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility." The review was titled: "The Mass Murder They Still Deny."

In his most recent book, "Power, Faith and Fantasy," Oren made dozens of references to Armenia and Armenians, including lengthy heart-wrenching descriptions of the mass killings before and during the Armenian Genocide. Here are some of the most striking quotations from his book:

"The buildup of Ottoman oppression and Armenian anger erupted finally in the spring of 1894, when Turkish troops set out to crush a local rebellion, but then went on to raze entire villages and slaughter all of their inhabitants... Some 200,000 Armenians died -- 20 percent of the population -- and a million homes were ransacked. "Armenian holocaust," cried a New York Times headline in September 1895, employing the word that would later become synonymous with genocide."

Oren then went on to establish that more than a century ago, similar to today's acrimonious political tug-of-war over the genocide recognition issue, the Armenian atrocities seriously affected U.S.-Turkish relations. He wrote: "Maintaining amicability with Turkey would prove complicated, however, because ties between the United States and the Porte Sultan had long been frayed. The perennial source of friction was the oppression of Armenian Christians. Though a band of modernizing Young Turks, many of them graduates of Roberts College, had achieved power in Istanbul in 1908 and promised equal rights for all of the empire's citizens, barely a year passed before the slaughter of Armenians resumed. Some thirty thousand of them were butchered by Turkish troops in south-central Anatolia."



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In a section titled, "The most horrible crime in human history," Oren wrote: "The first reports, from December 1914, told of anti-Christian pogroms in Bitlis, in eastern Turkey, and the hanging of hundreds of Armenians in the streets of Erzerum. Armenian men between the ages of twenty and sixty were being conscripted into forced-labor battalions, building roads, and hauling supplies for the Turkish army. The following month, after their defeat by Russian forces in the Caucasus, Turkish troops salved their humiliation by pillaging Armenian towns and executing their Armenian laborers. In the early spring, Turkish soldiers laid siege to the Armenian city of Van in eastern Anatolia and began the first of innumerable mass deportations. The slaughter then raged westward to Istanbul, where, on April 24, security forces arrested and hanged some 250 Armenian leaders and torched Armenian neighborhoods. Interior Minister Talaat Pasha informed the Armenian Patriarch that 'there was no room for Christians in Turkey' and advised him and his parishioners 'to clear out of the country.'"

Oren then exposed Turkey's attempts to falsify history by pointing out that: "Most contemporary observers agree that the massacres were scarcely connected to the war, but rather represented a systematically planned and executed program to eliminate an entire people. Indeed, foreshadowing the Nazi genocide of the Jews twenty-five years later, Turkish soldiers herded entire Armenian villages into freezing rivers, incinerated them in burning churches, or simply marched them into the deserts and abandoned them to die of thirst.... By the end of summer, an estimated 800,000 Armenians had been killed and countless others forcibly converted to Islam."

After citing numerous eyewitness accounts of the mass killings, Oren concluded: "In all, as many as 1.5 million Armenians were killed in a genocide that the Turkish government would never acknowledge, much less regret."

While it is true that Michael Oren published this book before his assignment as Ambassador to Washington, his compelling position on the Armenian Genocide would hopefully make him refrain from following the footsteps of his predecessors who shamefully lobbied against the congressional resolution on this issue.

The appointment of a staunch supporter of the truth of the Armenian Genocide as Israel's Ambassador to Washington comes on the heels of a serious rift between Turkey and Israel following the Gaza war earlier this year. On that occasion, there were major manifestations of anti-Semitic statements and acts throughout Turkey, including anti-Israeli remarks by Turkish Prime Minister Rejeb Erdogan. His insulting words to Israel's President Shimon Peres in Davos, Switzerland, antagonized Israelis and Jews worldwide. Even though Israel downplayed Erdogan's offensive words, they did a lasting damage to Israeli-Turkish relations.

The combination of an Israeli government that is less sympathetic of Turkey and the presence of Israel's Ambassador in Washington who is a firm believer in the facts of the Armenian Genocide may facilitate the passage of the pending congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide.

ARTS

38. 160 BOOKS TO BE PUBLISHED THIS YEAR WITH THE SUPPORT OF ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

About 160 books will be published this year in the republic with the support of Armenian government. Edward Militonyan, the head of the agency of publishing work of Armenian Culture Ministry, said today that the state this year extended 130 mln. drams for the publishing work.

Ed. Militonyan noted that some problems have aroused connected with the literature to be published in 2009, but the project is to be implemented by 20%. In the field of publishing he attached importance to the issuing of musicology books saying that both the colleges and secondary musical schools need that literature.

Translation, scientific-available, encyclopedic and some other books will be included in the publications intended for this year.

39. HRANUSH HAKOBYAN ELECTED THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF "ONE NATION, ONE CULTURE" FUND [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

The session of the Board of Trustees of "One nation, One Culture" fund today was summoned in Armenian Government House with participation of Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan.

Armenian Prime minister attached importance to the role of the fund in implementing cultural projects, especially in regard to the cooperation with diaspora and involvement of creative power.



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Governmental public relations department told Armenpress that at the session Hranush Hakobyan was elected the president of Board of Trustees.

The council listened to the executive director's report on the projects and activity for 2008 and discussed the programs and events to be implemented by the fund in 2009.

40. AN ANNIVERSARY CONCERT DEDICATED TO ARMENIAN COMPOSERS T. MANSURYAN AND AVET TERTERYAN TO TAKE PLACE JUNE 26 [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

An anniversary concert dedicated to Armenian composers Tigran Mansuryan and Avet Terteryan will take place on June 26 in the concert-hall after Aram Khachaturyan.

Public relations department of Armenian Culture Ministry told Armenpress that T. Mansuryan's "Violoncello concert N 2", Av. Terteryan's 5-th symphony, as well as modern composer Ashot Zohrabyan's "Devotion to Metsarents" works will sound at the concert.

Anya Lekhner, who has arrived from Germany, will perform accompanied by the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by German conductor Pier-Dominic Ponei.

41. CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR TO BE CONDUCTED IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

Children's book fair will be conducted in September in Yerevan on the initiative of the Khnko-Aper library.

Director of the library Ruzanna Tonoyan told Armenpress that it is organized for the third time, the first one was conducted in February, the second one - in April within the framework of the week of children's book. The books published recently will be presented in the fair.

R. Tonoyan noted that this fair is going to be more extensive compared with the previous ones, books of a great number of publishers and authors will be presented.

"Suchlike events once more give an opportunity of propagating children's books, of bringing children closer to books. The experience shows that after such events the number of readers increases",- R. Tonoyan said.

The Khnko-Aper library organizes different events during the year, anniversary events and book discussions. Events are also expected to be organized within the frameworks of Polish cultural days in Armenia, an event program has been worked out to present Iranian culture.

42. THE DEADLINE FOR THE ADMISSION OF APPLICATION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ARMENIAN QUALIFICATION ROUND OF JUNIOR "EUROVISION-2009" INTERNATIONAL SONG CONTEST PROLONGED BY JUNE 29 [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

The deadline for admission of applications of participation in the Armenian qualification round of the Junior "Eurovision-2009" international song contest has been prolonged by June 29. Previously June 22 was announced as a deadline.

Consultant of the Public TV for the special projects Diana Mnatsakanian told Armenpress that the songs are adopted in their final variants and many did not manage to record them, because of which they have applied with a request to prolong the terms.

At the first pre-election round the jury will chose 7 best songs which will be presented during the second TV round July 12. The jury of the second pre-election round will assess the results in close and secret voting.

Besides the jury the Armenian audience also can take part in the voting through SMS messages for which 15 minutes of time will be provided. The author-singer of the best work which will get highest points by the jury and SMS voting will get a right to represent Armenia in the Junior "Eurovision-2009" international song contest scheduled for November 21 in Kiev.

RELIGION

43. CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS RECEIVES KALININGRAD GOVERNOR [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 06/22/09]

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II receiving a delegation led by RF Kaliningrad Governor Georgy Boos, that had arrived in Armenia on an official visit, expressed satisfaction with further development and strengthening of bilateral relations, cooperation and keeping and development of good traditions between the two peoples attaching importance to mutual visits of various spheres' figures. The



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Patriarch also thanked the Governor for the considerate and careful attitude of the regional authorities to the Armenian community.

According to the report of the Information Services of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, G. Boos presented visit's details and results to His Holiness, as well as spoke about Armenian community's active communal life in Kaliningrad region and its important contribution in various spheres of regional life.

SOCIAL

44. MAN-DOLPHIN IGOR NERSESIAN WHO PLANS TO SWIM ACROSS BLACK SEA LOOKS FOR SPONSORS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/22/09]

56-year-old Igor Nersesian of the city of Yalta failed to carry out his greatest project to swim across the Black Sea due to the absence of sponsors. However, his other world records have not been surpassed so far, Yerkramas paper of Russia's Armenians reported.

"A man-dolphin, the living legend of Yalta beaches, a remarkable life-guard, a 120-kg bearded robust man," this is how the paper's correspondent described Igor Nersesian, noting that on a stormy day he together with his fellow life-guards rescued more than ten people.

Igor Nersesian was the first Armenian to be included in the Guinness Book of Records. In April 1988, he swam for 3.5 hours in the sea at the temperature of 6-8 degrees Celsius. After passing the "cold endurance" test, on June 1st of the same year he dived into sea at the "nose" of Bear Mount and swam through Yalta Bay to Swallow's Nest. He passed nonstop 32 km in 13 hours without grasping the edge of the accompanying boat even for a moment. He also managed to swim across Lake Sevan.

Igor's plans also include Lakes Baikal and Ladoga and the Black Sea. He is prepared to realize these ideas even tomorrow provided he finds sponsors, Yerkramas wrote, quoting Igor Nersesian as saying: "Here, amid this beauty, I feel myself a hero standing at the world's end. I stand expecting Odysseus with his men to come suddenly and say: "Well, Igor, it is time for you to start. Use all resources." And I will do so.

45. 200 TEACHERS AND PROFESSORS WILL THIS YEAR TAKE PART IN THE ANNUAL SEMINAR OF FRENCH TEACHERS IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

7th annual seminar of French teachers will June 23-26 be held in the French University of Armenia.

Press service of the Embassy of France to Armenia told Armenpress that nearly 200 teachers and professors of the secondary schools of Yerevan and all the provinces as well as universities and other educational establishments will take part in the seminar.

The seminar will be presided by the professor who teaches French as a foreign language Ms. Frederick Pogam, Doctor of Roman linguistics, Head of the Belgian association of French teachers, writer Mr. Jacques Le Fevr, attaché of the French Embassy to Armenia in French language cooperation Ms. Karin Beq, Head of the department of modern languages of the Northern state university of the USA Aberdeen town Kaicy Blake.

The seminar is being organized through the cooperation between the "Armenian Aliens Françoise", Armenian Association of French teachers, Embassy of France to Armenia and Armenian Education and Science Ministry.

46. PAN-ARMENIAN FORUM OF ARMENIAN LAWYERS TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

In collaboration with the Armenian Constitutional Court the Diaspora Ministry will September 19-20 organize a pan-Armenian forum of Armenian lawyers in Yerevan.

Information department of the Ministry told Armenpress that admission of applications for participation in the conference has started. The draft agenda of the forum is already ready. It includes issues of education and training of legal personnel, ethnic minorities, the issue of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide from the viewpoint of right, lobby issues and others.

It will contribute to having a better idea about the centers of right in the world as well as mechanisms of working with them. The conference will ensure the intercourse of Armenian lawyers with each other and will give an opportunity to listen to their opinions on the tendencies of development of the legal system. A pan-Armenian Association of Armenian Lawyers is intended to be established within the frameworks of the forum.



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47. 230 CHILDREN FROM THE ARMENIAN PROVINCES TO HAVE A 7-DAY REST IN THE IJEVAN RESORT HOUSE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS “GREEN CAMP” PROGRAM [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

With the support of the US Embassy to Armenia the “Green Tavush” NGO implements the “Green Camp” program.

Head of the “Green Tavush” nature protection NGO Artsrun Mkhitarian told Armenpress that for already 3 years the organization implements suchlike program for the children of all the provinces of the country. Within the frameworks of the program from July 1 nearly 230 11-13 year old children from different provinces of the republic will have a 7-day rest in the Ijevan resort house; courses on the nature protection themes will also be organized.

According to the head of the Organization the program aims at dissemination of love towards the nature, contribute to the obtaining of necessary knowledge for the protection of the environment and its practical implementation.

According to A. Mkhitarian the implementation of the program will ensure the children have another view towards the nature.

48. A TESTING PROGRAM OF FINANCING OF THE INTEREST RATES OF THE CREDITS PROVIDED TO THE AGRICULTURE SPHERE – IN GEGHARKUNIK AND SHIRAK [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

The Armenian Government implements a testing program of financing of the interest rates of the loans provided to the agriculture sphere. Overall 60 rural communities of the Shirak province Amasia and Ashotsk regions and Gegharkunik province Chambarak region can make use of it.

Representative of the “Institution of rural financing” program implementation office Armen Petrosyan told Armenpress that any legal or natural person who has launched an activity in the given village and has been credited by any bank or loan organization can be involved in the testing project of financing of the interest rates. The financing is implemented either on 10 interest points or entirely.

49. DIRECT FLIGHTS ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED BETWEEN ARMENIA AND USA [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

After bilateral ratification the contract “on air communication” (Open Sky) signed November 21 2008 between the Armenian and USA governments in Washington has entered into force on June 16.

The press service of Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that the contract gives the air-companies of Armenia and USA an opportunity to implement direct flights between the two countries.

50. THE PROCESS OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS CARRIED OUT IN LORI AND SHIRAK BY THE “GLENDALE HILLS” DISCUSSED [Azg, 06/23/09]

The process of the construction works carried out in the provinces of Lori and Shirak by “Glendale Hills” company today were discussed at the working consultation chaired by the head of the staff of the President of Armenia Karen Karapetyan.

Armenian presidential press office told Armenpress that the Urban Minister, the chief architect of Armenia, the governors of Lori and Shirak, the mayor of Gyumri, the general director of the “Glendale Hills” and other officials took part in the consultation.

According to the agreements, 3030 apartments are to be built in Gyumri by the “Glendale Hills”, 1320 of which are planned for this year. The company is constructing dwelling houses in the rural settlements of Lori province as well.

The Urban Minister presented the process of general works saying that the construction of multi-apartment buildings is running according to the schedule, and in the first 10 days of November, this year, the apartments will be given to exploitation. In connection with the rural settlements the Minister said that the land works have already finished and the construction process has begun.

The general director of the “Glendale Hills” noted that the company mainly makes use of the local labor force and at present 700 people are involved in the works, the number of the workers in the provinces of Shirak and Lori will reach 3000 connected with different rounds of the construction.

Head of the president’s staff Karen Karapetyan pointed out the necessity of carrying out the intended works at all their extent and with high quality, noting that he is going to be very consistent in that



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issue. He underscored the importance of specifying the list of beneficiaries and the exclusion of abuses. Karen Karapetyan stressed that the whole process of the program is to be under the oversight of Armenian president and he will soon get acquainted with the carried works on place.

51. ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE STATE GUARANTEES TO THREE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES [ARMENPRESS, 06/23/09]

During one of the upcoming sessions the Armenian Government will approve the drafts of providing state guarantees to three construction companies. During today's working visit to Vanadzor the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan told journalists that one company has already been provided with such support.

According to T. Sargsyan, conditioned by the world financial-economic crisis the recession phenomena in the Armenian economy have mainly reflected on the construction sphere. Here, connected with nearly 40% reduction of private investments from Russia nearly as much fall has been registered. It had a significant impact on the state's GDP because the construction sphere has a great share in it.

The Prime Minister informed that the private investments in this sphere reached 1 billion 400 million drams. "Now we undertake corresponding steps to promote the construction sphere and provide state guarantees to those constructors who have unfinished constructions and the financial means of which are not enough to bring these construction works up to the end.

The financial means directed towards this sphere will increase as a result of which the recession tempos will smoothen," the Armenian Prime Minister said.

52. DEBATE ON SUBJECT "THE ARMENIAN WOMAN: A KITCHEN OR CAREER" TO BE CONDUCTED IN MOSCOW [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/23/09]

The third meeting on the subject "The Armenian Woman: A Kitchen or Career" of the Debating Club of the Armenian Youth's Intellectual Cooperation Association will be held at the Armenian embassy in Russia on June 27. Two opponents - Anahit Chalabian and Nune Kocharian will take part in the debate, present their views and and try to prove the correctness of their positions with the help of their seconds. According to miasin.ru, those to attend the debate will be presented two vital models, they will see a collision of two positions based on the expectations and life experience of young people.

53. CHAIRMAN OF DISTRICT ELECTORAL COMMISSION NO 8/15 NOT TO SERVE PRISON TERM DUE TO BEING INCLUDED IN AMNESTY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/23/09]

Onik Alexanian, who was charged with falsifying results at the May 31 elections of Yerevan Council of Elders, received 3 years in prison by the June 22 decision of the court of general jurisdiction of Yerevan's Malatia-Sebastia community, but he was included in the amnesty and will not serve his prison term. The accused had pleaded guilty and petitioned to examine his case by an accelerated procedure.

54. FOUR PEOPLE ARRESTED IN MOSCOW ON SUSPICION OF HAVING KIDNAPPED ARMENIAN CITIZEN [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/23/09]

Law enforcers arrested four unemployed persons in Moscow, who are suspected of kidnapping an Armenian citizen.

Radio Liberty reported, referring to Novosti news agency that the Armenian citizen was kidnapped on Sheremetevskaya Street on June 5. Later this person managed to escape from his kidnapers on his own.

Three of the arrested men had previous convictions.

A criminal case on kidnapping has been opened in connection with the fact. The Russian criminal code envisages imprisonment for up to 15 years for this crime.

No details about the case and the identities of the Armenian citizen and those arrested were given.



55. 4,505 PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERED MISSING IN ARMENIA, ARTSAKH AND AZERBAIJAN AS A RESULT OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH CONFLICT [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

June 29 is commemorated as a day of missing people. On that day a tribute will be paid to their memory in the “Yerablur” pantheon in Yerevan and in the Stepanakert memorial complex of victims and missing people of the Artsakh war.

An official from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) told Armenpress that as a result of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict 4,505 people are considered missing in Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan. 371 of them are women, 4,131 – men and 108 teenagers. From November 2008 the Committee registered 310 search applications. Working in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict region since 1992 the ICRC assisted the process of repatriation and transportation of people who have been taken captives as a result of the conflict.

The Committee assisted more than 700 people to return to Armenia, who were kept in Azerbaijan as captives.

Head of the Nagorno Karabakh state Commission for the issues of prisoners of war, captives and missing people Victor Kocharyan told Armenpress that the Azerbaijani exaggerate the number of missing people and even spread disinformation on it according to which allegedly captives are kept in Nagorno Karabakh.

The Armenian side has always expressed readiness for a more profound study for the rectification of the lists of missing people but Azerbaijan raised obstacles for it.

On June 29 the Armenian high-ranking officers' staff headed by the Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan will pay a tribute to the memory of missing people in the “Yerablur” pantheon.

56. THE BUILDING OF THE ARAGADZOR KINDERGARTEN RENOVATED [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

The building of the kindergarten in the Aragadzor community of Martakert region has been renovated.

Assistant to the head of the Nagorno Karabakh government-affiliated capital construction department Arsen Mkrтчian told Armenpress that more than 40 million drams have been released from the state budget for the reconstruction works. The modern estate of the kinder garden has been purchased with the means of “Armenia” all-Armenian Fund.

The reconstructed kinder garden will open its doors for the children from September 1.

57. NERKIN GETASHEN TO HAVE A KINDERGARTEN [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

The Nerkin Getashen community of Gegharkunik province will have a kindergarten. The village which today has 8500 residents has never had a kinder garden and the building which was to be constructed for that aim has been privatized by a number of people and turned into apartments.

This year the governor of Nerkin Getashen village and the council of community elders applied to the Governor of Gegharkunik Nver Poghosian to render one of the divisions of the #2 secondary school to the village authorities where the kinder garden will open.

Head of Nerkin Getashen community Karo Gevorgian told Armenpress that the Gegharkunik governor has approved the wish of the community. The division will be reconstructed and corresponded to the modern standards of pre-school educational establishment, will be armed with estate and will most probably start to function from the next year.

58. WORKS OF RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND CONSTRUCTION OF WATER PIPELINES BEING IMPLEMENTED IN LCHASHEN [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

Works of renovation of roads and construction of 2.5 km length water pipelines are being conducted in the Lchashen village of Gegharkunik province.

Head of the Lchashen village Koryun Margarian told Armenpress that the water pipeline is being constructed with the means of Asian Development Bank. As of today nearly 2 km sector of the water pipeline has been constructed and the works of remaining 500 meters will finish in 10 days.

The water pipeline will start from the deep wells and the village will entirely be ensured with drinking water. According to the head of the community counters will be set in all the houses and the village will be ensured with 24-hour water supply.



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On the state budget means a 1 km length bypassing road will be constructed through Lchashen. The asphaltting works are held for already 2 weeks. Besides that asphaltting and gap filling works are conducted on the local budget means.

With the released 6 million drams overall 1200 square meters asphaltting will be conducted and 300 square meters of gap filling works. The works will finish during the upcoming days.

59. SHIRAK PROVINCE DOCTORS TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES IN ASKERAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

Within the frameworks of cooperation program between Armenian provinces and Nagorno Karabakh regions the professional group of the health and social security department of the Shirak province will today leave for Askeran.

Head of the Health and social security department of Shirak Governor's office Samvel Ghazarian told Armenpress that the selection of the group of 11 specialists was conducted taking into consideration the demand. Within the frameworks of "open doors" the doctors of the province will provide services in oncology, oculist, traumatology, cardiology, neurology, endoscope and infection spheres. The group will also involve two social workers.

"We will also take the necessary equipments with us which will help to make the medical examination more efficient. This is our first visit to Askeran. We hope that after a short period they will also visit us," S. Ghazarian noted.

60. R. YIRIKIAN DENIES THE NEWS ABOUT ATTEMPT OF ASSUALT YESTERDAY [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

During today's meeting with journalists Chief Director of "VivaCell-MTS" company Ralf Yirikyan denied the news that he has undergone a murderous assault yesterday.

"Numerous calls have been received yesterday in our company, in connection with that news. I can only say that it is a wicked gossips and no murderous assault has taken place. We do not pay attention to such conversations and continue to work," R. Yirikyan said.

According to him the company will focus all the powers for the implementation of all the projects intended for the year and work in favor of the homeland.

61. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF 400 MILLION DRAMS THE "LOUYS" FOUNDATION WILL SUPPORT THE ARMENIAN STUDENTS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE WELL KNOWN UNIVERSITIES OF THE WORLD [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan visited today the Yerevan State University with the coordinator of educational projects of "Louys" charity foundation Jacqueline Karaaslanian. During the meeting with students they presented the activity of the foundation and the assistance that "Louys" provides to the Armenian students studying in the world's famous universities.

In his speech the Armenian Prime Minister noted that the foundation in which he is also a member, has been established under the high patronage of Armenian President and deals with cultural, scientific and educational issues. This is a private initiative and in its activity will use only charity means granted only by the private sectors and directs them to the implementation of its aiming projects on the benevolent bases.

"Last year we stated that we are starting implementation of a new educational program under the "Louys" foundation aiming to create opportunities for our talented young people to be able to continue their education in the best universities of the world," the Prime Minister said at the same time adding that the educational constitute is only a part of the projects implemented by the foundation.

Referring to the educational constitute the Armenian Prime Minister noted that this year's educational project of the foundation of nearly 400 million drams has already been drafted. The educational program will work in a Council which involves the Prime Minister, deputy head of the President's staff Vigen Sargsyan, deputy head of the Central Bank Vache Gabrielian, member of parliament Anahit Bakhshian, representative of the Armenian Apostolic Church, etc. T. Sargsyan stressed that the election of the project coordinator J. Karaaslanian was open and transparent.

J. Karaaslanian said that the foundation launches activity for already 4 months and already numerous applications have been got. The foundation mission is to assist the increase of the number of Armenian students studying in the world's famous universities and to establish a general all-Armenian youth net.



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Students applying to the “Louys” foundation must be Armenians in origin, Armenian citizens or having Armenian roots. The applicants must already have entered any international well known university. All those who wish to get acquainted with the details of the program or submit applications may consult the official website of the foundation www.luys.am.

In response to the question of Armenpress the project coordinator also noted that according to their studies in international well known educational establishments such as Harvard, Massachusetts Universities 10-15 Armenian students study.

During the meeting the Prime Minister and J. Karaaslanian also answered to the questions the journalists and students were concerned with.

62. THE TIME OF PRESENTING APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRANCE INTO ARMENIAN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS IS PROLONGED TILL JULY 29 [ARMENPRESS, 06/24/09]

The time of presenting applications for entering Armenian higher educational establishments is prolonged till June 29, 18:00 pm. Press Officer of the Application Receiving Commission Lilit Galstyan told Armenpress that a great number of applicants, who haven't managed to present applications to take exams of entrance to higher educational establishments till June 1, applied to the Ministry of Education and Science, reasoning their unawareness of the process.

The Ministry going forward to a great number of requests, prolonged the time of receiving the applications. All the applicants who haven't managed to present applications to state universities till the given time – June 1, must first of all apply to the Armenian Ministry of Education and Science in a written form in order to present the applications in the additional time.

L. Galstyan said that the commission has got about 60 applications up to now, the majority of which applied to art universities.

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