



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, June 26, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. YERKIR UNION: STRUGGLE FOR JAVAKHK ARMENIANS' LEGAL RIGHTS IS ALL-ARMENIAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

On June 23, the Yerkir Union spread a statement on new manifestations of policy of violation of Javakhk Armenians' rights. Below is the statement completely:

"The consistent policy of violation of Javakhk Armenians' rights carried out by the Georgian authorities has got new, more rude and evident manifestations. Thus,

Javakhk Armenian teachers, who were leaving for Armenia within the framework of the retraining program, were called to the Georgian Security Service and interrogated, the rights of Javakhk Armenian activist Vahagn Chakhalian continue to be rudely violated. He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by the Georgian court with the charge of organizing rallies and meetings on April 7 2009, on June 19 of the current year RA National Assembly deputy Shirak Torosian, who is known for his public speeches on problems of Javakhk Armenians, was prohibited to enter Georgia without any explanation.

The Georgian authorities being concerned that protest to their policy of violation of Javakhk Armenians' rights gradually increases in Armenia, Diaspora, and among the international community, on the eve of Georgian President M. Saakashvili's visit to Armenia, by increasing anti-Armenian persecutions try to achieve the following main purposes: to once more show their unyielding position in the issue of Javakhk Armenians' rights, to move the Javakhk problem to the sphere of Armenian-Georgian interstate relations and by exerting economic pressure upon the Armenian authorities to force them to make new concessions.

The Yerkir Union calls the Georgian authorities for understanding that persecutions only deepen the current discontent by further increasing the realization in Armenia and Diaspora that the struggle for Javakhk Armenians' legal rights is an all-Armenian struggle. Therefore, Georgian authorities' efforts to move the problem of Javakhk Armenians to the sphere of interstate relations and to give a "solution" to it by using economic levers of pressure on that plane are doomed to failure.

There is no alternative to stopping the persecutions, dialogue with public-political circles representing the Armenians of Javakhk and giving a real solution to language, educational, religious, and cultural problems faced by the Armenians of Javakhk.

The Armenian authorities, Armenian and Diasporan structures, international organizations are obliged to undertake active steps to stop the crisis gradually deepening in Javakhk and to give a solution to Javakhk Armenians' problems in correspondence with international norms of human rights and minorities rights.

2. RA FOREIGN MINISTER TO PAY WORKING VISIT TO FRANCE WHERE HE WILL MEET WITH AZERI FOREIGN MINISTER [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian will pay a working visit to Paris on June 26-27 where he will meet with Azeri Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadiarov and OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs.

According to the report of the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department, on June 27-28 E. Nalbandian will take part in the OSCE Foreign Ministers' meeting in Greece dedicated to the discussion of problems of security systems and cooperation in Europe.

3. ACCORDING TO EDUARD SHARMAZANOV, WITH "FOOTBALL DIPLOMACY" INITIATIVE SERZH SARGSYAN BEHAVED LIKE POLITICIAN OF 21ST CENTURY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

The approaches of the Armenian authorities and the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) in the issue of Armenian-Turkish relations have been kept unchanged: that is, the issues of international recognition of Armenian Genocide and Nagorno Karabakh settlement cannot serve as a precondition. RPA Spokesperson, RA National Assembly deputy Eduard Sharmazanov stated at the June 24 press conference.

Touching upon opposition's accusations in this issue, he said that creation of not a group of Armenian-Turkish historians, but of an intergovernmental commission is spoken about. As to Turkey's initiative of submitting a resolution on Nagorno Karabakh settlement to the UN Security Council, E.



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Sharmazanov said that Turkey cannot pretend on mediator's role in this issue, as it is an interested side. Besides, Armenia has always been for problem settlement within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. The RPA Spokesperson found it difficult to say whether the Turkish side has renounced the "road-map" (the Armenian-Turkish statement signed on April 22: NT). He only said that normalization of bilateral relations depends not only on the Armenian side. According to E. Sharmazanov, irrespective of the further development, with the "football diplomacy" initiative Serzh Sargsyan behaved like a politician of the 21st century.

4. RPA SPOKESPERSON: TODAY THERE IS NO DOMESTIC TENSION IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

Irrespective of the fact what part of society thinks, by granting an amnesty, the ruling Republican Party of Armenia, ruling coalition and the President showed a political will, the goal of which was to create an atmosphere of dialogue and tolerance in society. RPA Spokesperson Eduard Sharmazanov stated on June 24. According to him, it was the first amnesty of such a large scale in Armenia's modern history. In response to the question of whether the authorities would show such a political will if discussion of the issue of Armenia were not expected at the PACE sitting, he said that everything the authorities do is first of all done for country's society.

E. Sharmazanov did not share the apprehension that the release of the persons accused on the 2008 March 1 cases will increase the domestic tension. In his words, March 1 is one of the most notorious pages in Armenia's history, which has not been finally closed yet. However, according to him, there is no tension in society today, and the times when tension could be created artificially have passed. According to him, Yerevan Council of Elders elections showed that the opposition is inclined to use civilized ways of struggle and is preparing for the 2012 parliamentary elections at present.

E. Sharmazanov considers rather vague the possibility of unification of three opposition forces, Armenian National Congress, ARFD and Zharangutiun, as he does not think that they have ideological communities. According to him, Zharangutiun can cooperate with Dashnaksutiun at the parliament and with ANC outside the parliament. However, it is obvious that any attempt of Zharangutiun to be independent receives a counterblow by the Congress, which is understandable in consideration of the inevitable competition between opposition forces in the coming parliamentary elections.

5. ARMENIAN AND GEORGIAN PRESIDENTS DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ISSUES [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

President of Georgia Mikhail Saakashvili arrived today in Armenia on a two-day official visit at the invitation of President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the official meeting ceremony of the president took place in the residence of the President of Armenia, after which the face-to-face meeting of the two presidents took place followed by the extended meeting of the official delegations.

Noting that there are very few peoples in the world who may be proud of such a long good-neighborly relations like are Armenian and Georgian peoples, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said that "we must double what we have inherited from the ancestors."

The two presidents noted that the frequent meetings and negotiations help to specify the issues presenting mutual interest and ways of their solution.

During the negotiations the sides discussed cargo transportation issues through Georgia, bilateral communication, tourism development, educational-cultural cooperation.

President Serzh Sargsyan, for activating ties between Armenian and Georgian peoples, underscored the necessity of organizing joint events. As an example he particularly suggested the organization of annual school Olympiads, conduction of sport competitions. An arrangement has been reached to conduct first school olympiad in fall.

At the end of the meeting Serzh Sargsyan awarded M. Saakashvili Order of Honor which is the highest award of Republic of Armenia to foreign citizens.

6. NA SPEAKER H. ABRAHAMIAN HAS MEETINGS IN STRASBOURG [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Today the working visit of NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan to Strasbourg kicked off within the frameworks of which he has meetings with the heads of CoE institutions and heads of political forces represented in PACE.



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Public relations department of Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that in the morning the NA Speaker met with the chairperson of CoE Venice commission Gianni Buquicchio. The NA Speaker highly assessed the role of Venice Commission and its chairperson in the issue of relevance of the bills discussed in Armenia with European standards.

In this context he stressed the importance of the role of CoE Venice Commission in the realization of the amendments made in the Criminal Code. During the intercourse the sides have agreed that Armenia has already registered a great progress in the issue of correspondence of its legislature with the European standards and now the time has come for the correct implementation and applying of the legislature.

Afterwards the NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan met with the CoE Commissioner for the Human Rights Tomas Hammarberg. The NA Speaker also thanked him for his support to the Armenian issues and constructive critics. He stressed that Armenia is a CoE full member and with it considers him engaged to conscientiously implement its commitments taken within the frameworks of CoE.

He also stressed the importance of joint efforts of all the member states towards keeping the CoE reputation high and not to harm the fame of the organization. During the intercourse the sides have also discussed issues connected with activity of NA ad hoc commission for the study of 1-2 March 2008 events.

In the morning June 24 the NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan also met the head of United European faction of lefts in PACE Tini Cocks and the head of the faction of European People's party Luke van den Brandt.

During the meetings the NA Speaker presented to his interlocutors the details of the process of amnesty declaration by the Armenian Parliament proposed by the President. He underscored that it was an efficient breakthrough which was also possible to reach in virtue of friendly and right assistance of our PACE partners. On the request of the interlocutors Ms. Abrahamyan also referred to the issues of South Caucasus region.

Today afternoon, the NA Speaker also met the PACE Chairperson Luis Maria de Puige. During the intercourse the sides have highly assessed the lately registered successes in the issue of reaching an inter-political consensus in Armenia.

They agreed that nevertheless there are still tasks to be done and the Council of Europe as well as the expert and other tools provided by this institution are the non-substitutable partners for Armenia in bringing them to life.

After the meeting with PACE chairman-in office Ms. Abrahamian had a briefing with the representatives of medias.

On the second half of the day the NA Speaker was to meet with the head of the faction of Union of European liberals and democrats Matias Yorsch, head of the European democratic fraction David Wilshari and the head of the European Court of the Human Rights Jan-Paul Costa.

On the same day the NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamian will be present at the PACE plenary session during which the Armenian issue will be discussed. He is intended to deliver speech after the discussion sum up voting.

7. DELEGATION OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO ARRIVE IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

On June 25-28 delegation of the International Federation for human rights (FIDH) will arrive in Yerevan. The delegation is comprised of the President of the FIDH Ms. Souhayr Belhassen, Executive Director Mr. Antoine Bernard, Communication Director Mrs. Isabelle Chebat, as well as Eastern Europe, and Central Asia Desk Director Mrs. Alexandra Koulaeva.

An official from the Civil Society Institute told Armenpress that the delegation will have a number of meetings within the framework of the preliminary arrangements of FIDH 37th Congress that will take place in Yerevan in April, 2010.

On June 26, on the International day for victims of torture, International Federation of human rights will call a press conference during which the "Protection of human rights' defenders" annual report 2009, where a part is devoted to Armenia, will be presented.

8. AS OF JUNE 24, 200 CONVICTED HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM THE CRIMINAL-EXECUTIVE ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

As of June 24, according to the NA June 19 decision on "Declaring amnesty" 200 imprisoned people have been set free from the criminal-executive establishments of the republic.



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According to the point 7 of the decision the years of punishment of 5 arrested people have been shortened. Head of the Public relations department of the Criminal-Executive department of Armenian Justice Ministry Arsen Babaian told Armenpress that 47 people have been set free from the “Erebuni” criminal-executive establishment and the punishment years of one have been shortened. 18 people have been set free from the “Sevan” criminal-executive establishment, 1 – from the “Yerevan-Center” criminal-executive establishment, 23 – from “Kosh” criminal-executive establishment, 1 – from “Hrazdan” criminal-executive establishment, 35 – from “Noubarashen”, 10 people have been set free from “Artik” criminal-executive establishment and the punishment years of one of them 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”.

9. PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA VISITS TSITSERNAKABERD [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

President of Georgia Mikhail Saakashvili, together with his spouse, visited today Tsitsernakaberd and put a wreath on the memorial to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

The Georgian president was accompanied with the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan, Yerevan mayor Kamo Areyan and other officials.

In the memory alley the Georgian president watered the tree planted in 2004 on behalf of Georgian people.

Afterwards M. Saakashvili was hosted in Yerevan State University where he met with its students and professor staff.

10. G. MINASYAN PROGNOSES STABLE SITUATION FOR ARMENIA DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE CURRENT YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

The situation in the world economy will stabilize during the fourth quarter of the current year and the recession indexes will be smaller said the Head of the NA permanent commission for the financial-economic and budget affairs Gagik Minasyan during today’s meeting with journalists.

According to him, a stable economic condition is also predicted for Armenia. Although during the 5 months of the current year the index of economic recession in the republic reached 15.7% G. Minasyan is optimistic. Analyzing the situation he noted that nevertheless there is certain stabilization. Studying the four main directions of the economy – industry, agriculture, construction and services, G. Minasyan noted that besides the construction stabilization is nevertheless notable in the remaining three as during the fifth month the recession indexes have very miserably changed compared with the fourth one. In spite of it a serious fall is noted in the construction sphere.

According to him, this is characteristic not only of Armenia but also of all the states of the world. The lack of transfers has also had an impact on the fall of the construction. The state conducts definite projects in this sphere. Among them G. Minasyan singled out the fact that the Armenian Government on privileged conditions provides credits to certain construction companies to be able to spur their works.

The Government is going to implement another project with which all the organizations which will conduct a construction project of higher than 1 billion drams will during the upcoming 3 years be free of the taxes for increased prices and social security payments.

“These are serious privileges which chiefly aim at contribution to the development of construction,” G. Minasyan said.

Great investments are also made in the disaster zone for the development of the construction sphere. Referring to the rumors that in some state institutions the salaries are postponed, G. Minasyan said he does not believe to them. He reminded President Serzh Sargsyan’s statements according to which no matter what situation is in the state the social payments and salaries will by all means be allocated to people in time.

11. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH GEORGIAN PRESIDENT [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan met today with the President of Georgia Mikhail Saakashvili.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides discussed issues on consolidation of economic ties between the two countries, boosting of cooperation in different spheres, issues on tourism, educational-cultural ties and prospects of their development.



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It was noted that the deepening of economic cooperation and implementation of joint initiatives will promote the smoothing of consequences of global financial economic crisis.

The head of the Armenian government underscored the uninterrupted work of ways of communication through Georgian territory which has a great importance for the economy of our country.

12. RUSSIA IS AGAINST THE IMPOSING OF RESOLUTIONS TO KARABAKH CONFLICT TO THE SIDES FROM ASIDE [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

The Russian Foreign Ministry stated that Russia is against the imposing of resolutions of Karabakh conflict to the sides from aside. The participants of today's ministerial meeting of the "eight" plan to discuss ways of regulation of the issue.

"Russian position on the Karabakh conflict regulation is unchangeable and consistent, it is well known,"- the information and media department of Russian Foreign Ministry reminded. –Russia is against the imposing of resolutions to the conflicting parties from aside. We are based on the circumstance that the chief responsibility for the final choice is on the Armenians and Azerbaijani.

Russia would be ready to defend the variant of conflict regulation which will satisfy to all the parties involved in the conflict, and in case of reaching a compromise be as a guarantee for the regulation. We think that such a regulation will be viable which will not turn the region into a arena of regional strategy race, will allow to return the stability and peace of South Caucasus," the Russian Foreign Ministry says.

13. PACE ADOPTS 1677 RESOLUTION ON THE FUNCTIONING OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

"Through the adoption of a general amnesty for the persons deprived of their liberty in relation to the events of 1 and 2 March 2008, the Armenian authorities have complied with a crucial demand of the Assembly with regard to the political crisis that ensued after the Presidential election of February 2008. This, as well as the assurances given by the authorities that they intend to conduct and conclude an impartial and credible investigation into these events and the circumstances that led to them, in line with the demands of the Assembly, is a clear indication of the willingness of the authorities to overcome the political crisis and its consequences, and to turn to a new page in Armenia's democratic development," says the 15th point of the Resolution 1677 adopted by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on the functioning of democratic institutions in Armenia.

In the document the Assembly particularly points out that it considers that the demands and recommendations contained in its earlier Resolutions 1609 (2008), 1620 (2008) and 1643 (2009) form a concrete and realistic roadmap to resolve the political crisis that ensued in Armenia after the Presidential election in February 2008. These demands and recommendations therefore remain fully valid.

The Assembly welcomes the proposal for a general amnesty submitted by the President of Armenia to the National Assembly on 16 June 2009 and its prompt adoption by the National Assembly on 19 June 2009. In relation to this amnesty, the Assembly notes that, under this amnesty, most, but not all, persons deprived of their liberty in relation to the events of 1 and 2 March 2008 will be released and the Assembly will follow the developments with regard to the remaining cases.

With regard to the independent, impartial and credible investigation into the events of 1 and 2 March 2008, and the circumstances that led to them, the Assembly regrets the breakdown of the work of the independent expert group to establish the facts in relation to these events (fact-finding group) and calls upon the members of the fact-finding group to present their findings and conclusions, possibly in the form of individual reports, to the Ad hoc Parliamentary Inquiry Committee. It is noted that the Assembly considers that the final report by the Ad hoc Parliamentary Inquiry Committee will determine whether the criteria of impartiality and credibility have been met and whether further investigations are necessary.

The Assembly also notes about the necessity of reforms in electoral processes and judicial system.

The Assembly strongly supports the process of democratic consolidation in Armenia and therefore considers that the assessment of Armenia's compliance with the remaining demands made by the Assembly in Resolutions 1609 (2008), 1620 (2008), 1643 (2009) should take place in the framework of the ongoing regular monitoring procedure of the Assembly with respect to Armenia. The Assembly invites its Monitoring Committee to consider as a priority, within this framework, the compliance by Armenia with the above mentioned resolutions as well as with this resolution.



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14. GEORGIAN PRESIDENT M. SAAKASHVILI WRAPS UP HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Georgian president Mikhail Saakashvili and his spouse Sandra Rulovs, who were in Armenia at the invitation of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, today departed from Yerevan.

During the visit presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Mikhail Saakashvili had a face-to-face talk, which was followed by the extended meeting of official delegations, afterwards the heads of the two countries gave a joint press-conference.

In the frameworks of the official visit the Georgian president visited the Genocide Memorial and put a wreath in the memory of its victims. Afterwards M. Saakashvili had a meeting with the professor staff and the students of Yerevan State University.

15. M. SAAKASHVILI SAYS THE COOPERATION WITH ARMENIA HAS A MOST IMPORTANT ROLE FOR GEORGIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Mikhail Saakashvili who was in Yerevan on an official visit met today the students and professors' staff of the Yerevan State University. The YSU rector granted the President with a title of Honorary Doctor and the Golden Medal of the university which was awarded to him on the decision of the scientific council of the university.

A. Simonian expressed confidence that the visit of the President of the neighboring state to Armenia will contribute to the development and enhancement of bilateral relations. According to him the Tbilisi State University has its unique role in the issue of development of Armenian-Georgian relations. He expressed hope that the cooperation agreement between the two Mother Universities will contribute to the further enhancement of cooperation in the educational sphere, especially when the links and relationship between the past of the two states is a firm bases for the further mutually profitable cooperation. And the visit of M. Saakashvili – a step forward in the enhancement of relations.

Georgian President M. Saakashvili expressed gratitude for the scientific award and noted that the relations between the two states are hard to be called official. "We have close links, we mutually fill each other, continue each other," the Georgian President said.

He assured that all the ethnic groups of Georgia are equally treated. He considered it pleasing that during the two days in Armenia he felt warmness.

The Georgian President presented the economic developments of Georgia and registered positive indexes to the YSU students simultaneously noting that in Georgia as well as in all the states there are economic issues. He stressed that great investments are also being made in Javakhq – roads are constructed, infrastructures restored and the region is connected to natural gas network. The investments made in Javakhq are more than in any other Georgian region. According to him the railroad connecting China to Europe must also pass through Javakhq and the electric station which is being constructed will have a few thousands of additional employees. With it the issue of unemployment will also be settled

Referring to Armenian-Georgian economic relations he noted that the Georgian territory is a transit way for Armenian cargos and Georgia does everything to ensure their secure transportation. Although sometimes the aroused issues are exaggerated and the difficulties connected with transit are on the whole false.

M. Saakashvili pointed out that the cooperation with Armenia has a most important role for Georgia and the both sides are interested in its further development and enhancement.

16. PITTER SEMNEBY, - "EUROPEAN UNION WILL ASSIST ALL THE EFFORTS TOWARDS KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION" [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Special representative of European Union in South Caucasus Peter Semneby stated today at the conference on security of Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council that European Union will assist all the efforts towards Karabakh conflict regulation.

"At present the conflict zone situation is of depressive nature, and the cease-fire doesn't speak of absence of problems in the conflict regulation issue", Semneby said. According to him, only last year 30 people were killed in the conflict zone. "It is necessary to look after the development of the situation in right direction", - the representative of European Union added.



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17. BRAZIL INTENDS TO UNDERTAKE STEPS TOWARDS DEVELOPING COOPERATION WITH ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Armenian Foreign Affairs Minister Edward Nalbandyan received today the newly appointed Brazilian ambassador to Armenia Marcella Maria Nikodemos on the occasion of handing the copy of credentials.

Foreign Affairs Ministry press service told Armenpress that congratulating Mrs. Nikodemos, Minister Nalbandyan wished good luck to the ambassador in implementing the diplomatic mission and expressed hope that the new ambassador will make her important contribution to strengthening and deepening the bilateral cooperation.

In her turn ambassador Nikodemos noted that Brazil displays special sympathy towards Armenia and Armenian people, and the authorities of her country intend to undertake functional steps towards developing all-round cooperation with Armenia.

During the conversation the sides discussed issues on the activation of political dialogue and mutual visits, economic and cultural cooperation, extension of legal-agreement sphere and activation of inter-parliamentary relations.

Marcella Maria Nikodemos in 1997 worked as a consultant in UN Brazilian mission, in 2001 – as a consultant in Brazilian Embassy in Panama, in 2006 – as a plenipotentiary Minister in Brazilian Embassy in Peru.

18. AHMED DAVUDOGHLU: "TURKEY WON'T CARRY OUT A POLICY WITH ARMENIA WITHOUT AZERBAIJAN" [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Davudoghlu, participating in yesterday's session of foreign relations commission of Turkish Parliament for the first time after taking the office, "gave information on the perception of Turkish foreign policy in the new period".

According to the Turkish "Hurriyet", Davudoghlu assured the Turkish members of parliament that "Turkey won't implement a policy with Armenia without paying attention to Azerbaijan". "The opening of Turkish-Armenian border is made a problem, but it was open till 1993", - Davudoghlu said adding that the relations of Ankara with Yerevan "won't develop without Baku".

The perception of the new foreign policy Davudoghlu explained to the members of parliament by the phrase "Any problem in the surrounding territory of 1000 miles from Turkey is of interest for Ankara.

Noting that he wouldn't like to share his talk with the commission members with the press, Davudoghlu said that Turkey's interests spread from the Balkans to Caucasus, from Middle East to North Africa and Central Asia". "The position of Turkey to assume active and influential role in those regions, will continue. Turkey intends to develop the relations with the south countries of Africa as well", - the Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister said.

19. THREE YEARS OF ZHAMANAK DAILY'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ARMAN BABAJANIAN'S IMPRISONMENT TO BE MARKED ON JUNE 26 [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

Protectors of freedom of expression will mark the third year of Zhamanak daily's editor-in-chief Arman Babajanian's imprisonment with an action of protest to be organized on June 26 at 12:00 before President's residence.

A number of media heads' June 25 joint statement mentioned that over three years various human rights and journalist organizations have been calling for immediately releasing opposition newspaper's editor-in-chief.

In consideration of all illegal and ungrounded rejections to suspendedly release him ahead of the schedule over three years, the statement authors record that with acts of violence used by the authorities to A. Babajanian in 2006 and to various media representatives since then and going on up to the present are only the first link of the general policy being ruled from a common center.

"The Armenian authorities failed to understand that repressive methods and violent actions towards freedom of expression and human rights deliver a terrible blow to our country's international rating. The highest instances forcedly silencing freedom of expression failed to understand that any step exerting pressure upon freedom of expression considerably damages Armenia's international authority, causes serious doubts on Armenia's adherence to democratic and universal values. Our country has assumed fulfillment of these commitments before authoritative international structures," the statement read. It was signed by A1+ company director Mesrop Movsesian, Haykakan Zhamanak newspaper editor Hayk Gevorgian, Aravot newspaper editor Aram Abrahamian, 168 Hours newspaper editor Satik



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Seyranian, Hayk newspaper editor Gegham Nazarian, Taregir newspaper editor-in-chief Vasak Darbinian, Lragir.am website editor Haykaz Ghahriyan, and Zhamanak newspaper's editorial staff.

20. ARA SARAFIAN TO GIVE BRYCE'S AND TOYNBEE'S BOOK ABOUT ARMENIAN GENOCIDE TO TURK DEPUTIES [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

The director of London's Komitas Institute, historian Ara Sarafian will present the Turkish translation of James Bryce's and Arnold Toynbee's book "The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1915-1916. Documents Presented to Viscount Grey of Falloden by Viscount Bryce" to the Turkish deputies on June 26 in Ankara. Sarafian will give a book to each deputy.

According to the Marmara daily, there is a common opinion in Turkey that the book was written by the English government in 1916 to carry out Armenian propaganda. The Turkish parliament sent a letter of protest to the parliament of England on the occasion of book's translation. According to Ara Sarafian, the Turk deputies do not have enough information about what really had happened.

21. GALLUP POLL TO BE CONDUCTED TO DISCOVER THE MUTUAL ATTITUDE OF ARMENIAN AND TURKISH POPULATION [ARMENPRESS, 06/26/09]

Gallup Poll will be conducted this autumn in Armenia and Turkey to find out the mutual attitude of populations of the two states. The inquiry in Armenia will be held by the "Armenian Sociological Association", in Turkey – "Tesev" sociological organization where the works will be coordinated by Professor Ferhat Kentel.

Head of the "Armenian Sociological Association" Gevorg Poghosyan told Armenpress that nearly 80 questions on policy, economy, culture and history are involved in the inquiry list. There will be questions on the opening of the border, Genocide perception, cooperation between the two states and having a general business.

In collaboration with the mentioned Turkish organization the Association has conducted such an inquiry in 2005. At that time greater part of the inquired noted that no developments and improvements are expected in the relations between the two states, but changes are noted during the latest period.

G. Poghosyan found it hard to say how will be the results of the latest inquiry on the background of latest developments of Armenian Turkish relations.

"Regulation of relations between the authorities of the two states and the attitude towards each other is a different platform and the relations between the societies – another. That's to say it is difficult to say how will be the attitude of the society," G. Poghosyan said.

The poll will be conducted simultaneously in the both states and the results will be summed up at the end of the year.

BUSINESS

22. PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH "THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF REOPENING THE ROADS BETWEEN ARMENIA AND TURKEY" HELD [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

Armenia should form its stance and a negotiation position on reopening the Armenian-Turkish border, develop the respective package of reforms and their implementation strategy and then implement these reforms consistently. This in its turn may be useful for the improvement of Armenia's legislative and institutional system, which is necessary for sustainable economic development and efficient participation in the international trade and economic environment. The authors of the extensive research "The Trade and Economic Problems of Reopening the Roads between Armenia and Turkey" done on the initiative of the ARF Bureau have come to this conclusion.

The member of the ARF Bureau, leader of the National Assembly "ARF" faction Vahan Hovhannisian said at the June 23 discussion at the ARF Kristopor Mikaelian Center that the work has "no political context". It will be submitted to the prime minister and government for discussion soon. Starting from September, it will become a guide for the faction to work out legislative initiatives.

The head of the working group on the research, ARF Bureau member David Lokian informed in detail the representatives of NA factions, economists and experts present at the discussion on the conditions affecting the import and export of Armenia and Turkey, as well as on the results of a comparative analysis of the agriculture, industry, tourism, transport and communication sectors.

It was mentioned that Turkey has quite a high level of the protection of domestic manufacturers, uses numerous measures to encourage its manufacturers and exporters, and the indicated measures



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create even more unequal conditions for Armenian and Turkish economic entities in favor of the Turkish ones. Therefore it is necessary to improve the business support system in Armenia as much as possible, as well as promote the activities of the control and protection systems in the market.

23. AGREEMENT ON AIR COMMUNICATION SIGNED BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF ARMENIA AND UNITED STATES COMES INTO FORCE [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

The Agreement on Air Communication (Open Sky), which was signed between the governments of the Republic of Armenia and the U.S. in Washington on November 21, 2008, came into force on June 16, after the completion of the bilateral ratification process.

NT was informed by the RA MFA Press and Information Department that this document provides the airlines of Armenia and the U.S. with the opportunity to operate direct flights between the two countries.

24. CONSTRUCTION OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN GYUMRI PROCEEDS ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

The process of the construction work being done by Glendale Hills CJSC in Lori and Shirak marzes (provinces) was discussed at the June 23 working consultation conducted by Head of the RA Presidential Staff Karen Karapetian. RA Minister of Urban Development, Chief Architect of Armenia, the regional governors of Lori and Shirak, the mayor of Gyumri, the director general of Glendale Hills, other officials took part in the consultation.

Under the agreement, Glendale Hills must build 3,030 apartments in Gyumri, and it is envisaged completing the construction of 1,320 apartments this year. The company is also building dwelling houses in rural settlements of Lori marz.

The minister of urban development presented the process of the work, saying that the construction of apartment buildings in Gyumri is proceeding according to the schedule, and they will start delivering apartments for use in early November. As for houses in rural areas, the minister announced that the excavation was completed and the construction work has begun.

The director general of Glendale Hills said that their company mainly uses local workforce, with 700 people being engaged in work at the moment. By the end of 2009, the number of workers in Shirak and Lori will reach 3,000.

According to the RA presidential press service, K. Karapetian underlined the necessity to efficiently carry out the full amount of work within the envisaged period, noting that they will be consistent in this respect. In his words, it is important to make the list of beneficiaries accurate and rule out any abuses. He said that the program's implementation will be supervised by the Armenian president who will soon familiarize himself with the work process on the spot.

25. ACCORDING TO VARDAN AIVAZIAN, IT IS NECESSARY TO "ASSUME A POSITION" BEFOREHAND IN ORDER TO BE COMPETITIVE IN CASE OF POSSIBLE OPENING OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH BORDER [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

A work entitled "The Trade and Economic Problems of Reopening the Roads between Armenia and Turkey" was presented at the ARF Kristopor Mikaelian Center on June 23. The representatives of the National Assembly factions and the economists present at the discussion considered the ARF Bureau's initiative as a praiseworthy and valuable one.

Chairman of the NA Standing Committee on Economic Issues, member of the Republican Party of Armenia Vardan Aivazian said that naturally, the Armenian-Turkish border will open sooner or later, and taking into account the fact that Turkey uses instruments for promotion and regulation of its economy and exports, the executive and legislative power of Armenia and its economic entities "should assume a position both in the good and bad sense in order to be competitive".

According to him, when joining the World Trade Organization, the two countries assumed different obligations, including the one on customs duties: Turkey may establish a customs duty of up to 50% for some goods, whereas Armenia may establish a 15% customs duty at the maximum.

In the words of the same committee's deputy chairman, member of "Prosperous Armenia" faction Vardan Bostanjan, the Armenian economy is quite vulnerable: for example, the domestic market is not protected despite the existence of the respective laws. Besides, Armenia's imports exceed more than four-fold its exports, which shows that "the country is not inclined to boost production".



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In the opinion of economist Andranik Tevanian, regardless of whether Armenia's legislation will be improved or not, in case of the possible opening of the border, the country's economy will be seriously jeopardized as it has a monopolistic and oligarchic nature and is based on "the persons united with the authorities".

26. TRIPARTITE MEMORANDUM ON DEVELOPMENT OF ARMENIAN IT SECTOR SIGNED [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

Executive Director of "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund Ara Vardanian, Executive Director of Synopsys Armenia company Hovik Musaelian, and Director General of VivaCell-MTS company Ralph Yirikian signed a tripartite memorandum on cooperation on June 24. The memorandum is related to the RA President's 2009 Award of Global Prestige in the Information Technology Sector. According to A. Vardanian, this year the program will be financed by VivaCell-MTS which will allocate 11 million drams (about 43.2 thousand dollars) for this purpose.

In the words of R. Yirikian, VivaCell-MTS supports this initiative of the Armenian president as it is aimed at working out competitive solutions in the IT sector. "We always assist the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's initiatives on the improvement of the most important spheres of social life. The IT industry is the path of our country's development, and we must help with promotion of this sector by all possible means," he said.

27. ERICSSON LAUNCHES INTERACTIVE TELEVISION IN ARMENIA FOR UCOM [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

Within the framework of the agreement on cooperation with Universal Communications (UCOM), Ericsson presents a high-quality interactive television to the Armenian viewer. According to the press service of Ericsson company, under this agreement Ericsson will provide its IP television solutions and the GPON fiber-optic technology to Ucom.

Thanks to IP television, the viewer can use the same interactive opportunities as when using a computer: chat, web television and access to social media networks.

IP television subscribers have an access to a specialized multifunctional portal. This service is based on the Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology, which will also be delivered by Ericsson. The introduction of the new technology will start in July.

28. ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE 44 MILLION USD CREDIT TO "ARMENIA MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTION", ZANGEZOUR AND AGARAK COPPER-MOLYBDENUM FACTORIES [ARMENPRESS, 06/26/09]

Within the frameworks of its anti-crisis events the Armenian Government will provide a credit of 44 million USD to the three most prominent enterprises of the mining sphere – "Armenian Molybdenum Production", Zangezour and Agarak copper-molybdenum factories.

During today's outgoing session of the Armenian Government in the Syunik province the Finance Minister Tigran Davtian noted that by 15 million USD will be allocated to the "Armenian Molybdenum Production" and "Zangezour" copper-molybdenum factories and 14 million USD to the Agarak factory. The pay-back terms are 4-5 years. The Armenian Finance Ministry will sign agreements of corresponding mortgages with the mentioned companies with which the output complexes of the companies as well as equipments which will be purchased with the allocated sum will be taken as mortgages. T. Davtian noted that the decision intends to promote the development of the mining sphere and the activity of the companies having an export potential.

Referring to this decision the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan noted that these are quite serious sums and will be released from the Russian credit. According to him it will intensify the Syunik province life. With the provided support the activity of these factories will get a new spur and they will be able to overcome the ad hoc difficulties arouse as a result of the crisis.

T. Sargsyan stressed that the Armenian commerce banks cannot yet provide such credit means as they are not capitalized in such a level because of which such big loans are allocated by the state. He also stressed the importance of the oversight of such procedures by the society.



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29. AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC COOPERATION SIGNED BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF ARMENIA AND CHINA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Karine Ghazinian and Ambassador of China to Armenia Hong Jiuyin signed Agreement on Technical-Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the People's Republic of China on June 24 at the RA Foreign Ministry.

According to the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department, technical assistance of 15m yuans to Armenia is envisaged by the agreement.

DIASPORA

30. CATHOLICOS ARAM I CONVEYS HIS BLESSING TO IRANIAN ARMENIANS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

Catholicos of Cilicia Aram I on June 20 had a telephone conversation with the Head of the Tehran Diocese Archbishop Sepuh Sargsyan in order to familiarize himself with the current situation in Iran and conceive its consequences for the Armenian community.

According to information received from Antelias Mayravank, Iran's Armenian community in Tehran, Isfahan and other cities has not suffered any losses. The Iranian Armenians continue to be well-organized and vigilant and they are following closely the political developments. His Holiness Aram I asked Archbishop Sepuh Sargsyan to convey his blessing to the religious heads of Isfahan and Tabriz and the Iranian Armenians.

To recap, Catholicos Aram I is now in Rome to participate in a special meeting of religious leaders prior to a G8 summit.

31. HRANUSH HAKOBIAN RECEIVES YOUNG PEOPLE FROM DIASPORA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

On the initiative of the FAR Yerevan Office, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian received a group of young people from Diaspora, who are for the first time in the homeland and have come from New Jersey, Boston, and Marseille to hold their student practice in Armenia. Minister Hranush Hakobian said that she attaches much importance to deepening of contacts of young people from Diaspora with the homeland, to their opinion and reflections over all national and all Armenian programs, and in general, over the general progress of our state and our people. According to the Minister, it is not accidental that problems regarding Diaspora's youth are included in almost all programs of the Ministry of Diaspora. Mrs Hakobian reminded to her guests, young people the necessity of keeping the most important and necessary components of preservation of Armenian identity. Besides, the Minister emphasized the importance of revealing the Armenian potential worldwide and using it for homeland's strengthening. Mrs Hakobian in general outline presented Ministry's programs, in implementation of which active participation of Diaspora's young people can only ensure the desirable result. According to the RA Ministry of Diaspora Press and Public Relations Department, the Diasporan Armenians hosted by the Minister are specialists of various spheres and successfully work at various institutions abroad. Their questions to the Minister mainly regarded the general concerns of the Armenians worldwide: danger of assimilation, loss of Armenian identity, mixed marriages, danger of separating from the Armenian community, etc.

Minister's answer to these concerns was exact: the difficult and responsible mission of preventing possible undesirable developments and inspiring an Armenian with Armenia-Diaspora cooperation, keeping the Armenian identity and making an Armenian live with the Homeland, in addition to Diasporan organizations, also lays on the RA Ministry of Diaspora, and, according to the Minister, the youth of Diaspora should also take an active part in solution of the problems put forward by the Ministry as far as possible. The young people got inspired with Minister's speech and expressed a resolution to constantly keep up with the RA Ministry of Diaspora programs through Internet and Hayern Aysor electronic newspaper and to assist their implementation as far as possible.



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32. MINISTER OF DIASPORA RECEIVES AZAD-HYE EDITOR HRACH KALSAHAKIAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

On June 23, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian received Managing Director and Editor of Azad-Hye Armenian website (www.azad-hye.net) in the United Arab Emirates, writer, translator Hrach Kalsahakian.

H. Kalsahakian presented activities of the Arab-English website telling about Armenian communities of the Middle East countries, as well as possibilities of cooperation with the Hayern Aysor electronic newspaper of the RA Ministry of Diaspora.

Problems (accounting, registration) relating to dual citizenship raised by H. Kalsahakian, programs on teaching the Armenian language intended for Armenians of the Arab world and other issues were also discussed during the meeting. They also touched upon the issue of creating an address reference book of all-Armenian websites that will give a possibility of uniting the Armenian Internet potential, as well as the possibilities of assisting development of tourism in Armenia, taking into consideration H. Kalsahakian's experience in the sphere of tourism.

33. ARMENIAN JEWELER MINAS AGGAYA FROM ISTANBUL KILLED CRUELLY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

Minas Aggaya, a jeweler from Istanbul, was killed in his workshop on June 20, Marmara daily reported, citing the Turkish media.

The 44-year-old Minas Aggaya did not go to his summer house on Big Island after finishing his work on Saturday. Alarmed that her husband did not answer her phone calls, Minas' wife Keti Aggaya called the police. On the evening of the same day policemen went to the jeweler's workshop in the Cagalolu district. When trying to open the door, they noticed that the alarm system had been turned off and they opened the door with the help of a specialist. The policemen found the bloody body of the Armenian jeweler at the entrance. An examination revealed that there was a short fight between Minas Aggaya and the criminal, and the jeweler was cruelly killed by being stabbed with a dagger 12 times. It is supposed that the criminal knew Aggaya.

A criminal case was opened in connection with the murder, investigation is underway. Law enforcers are also examining the videotape recording of the building's security camera.

34. T. TAVADIAN SAYS THE ISSUE OF PRESERVATION OF THE MOTHER LANGUAGE FOR ARMENIANS LIVING IN RUSSIA IS UNDER THREAT [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

The issue of preservation of the mother language for Armenians living in the Russian Federation is under threat. Only 30% of the half a million Armenians living in the Krasnodar province speak Armenian, and only at home, during today's meeting with journalists the editor of "Yerkramas" newspaper which is published in the Krasnodar province and the head of "Hamshen" center Tigran Tavadian said.

According to him, the Armenian community in Russia is the most unorganized one which is connected with the absence of skilled specialists. According to him the Diaspora-homeland link is also put on bad bases.

"Once in a year we get text-books from the Armenian Education and Science Ministry for the children studying in the Sunday schools but getting of these books is connected with great problems. For this aim we find it convenient to copy the books," T. Tavadian noted.

Speaking about the projects directed to the preservation of Armenia T. Tavadian noted that in Krasnodar national concerts are organized, Sunday schools function and lately a "Historical club" has opened where the history of last hundred years of Armenia is spoken about.

According to him all these is done so that the Armenian youth of Russia does not refer to Armenia as a farthest state where their grandparents lived, but accepts it as a state where they will return after a few years to settle here forever.

ARTS

35. HAGUE ABOVIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION 25 [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian sent a message of congratulation on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of foundation of the Abovian Armenian Cultural Association acting in the Netherlands, appreciating the activity of the association.



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The Abovian Association was founded on June 19, 1984, in the city of Hague, the Netherlands. According to information from Hague, on the occasion of the anniversary the association organizes an Armenian film festival, cooperating with the Hague Filmhuis Den Haag and Yerevan Golden Apricot film festivals. The festival to start on October 22 will present the way passed by the Armenian cinematography. Some books are to be published, as well.

During the past 25 years the Abovian Armenian Cultural Association made the cultural life of the Armenian community in the Netherlands interesting by organizing weekly meetings and courses of the Armenian language, history and culture, events, publishing periodicals.

The Abovian Cultural Association has always been on good terms with NGOs and cultural organizations of Armenia and Diaspora. Companies of actors and individuals have been repeatedly invited to participate in the cultural programs. Students, sportsmen, scientists also visited the cultural center.

36. THE FIRST LADIES OF ARMENIA AND GEORGIA VISIT THE STUDIO OF PAINTER-DESIGNER NUR [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 06/25/09]

The first ladies of Armenia and Georgia – Rita Sargsyan and Sandra Rulovs, today visited the studio of art master, painter-designer Nur – Arman Davtyan, in Yerevan. He presented his works to the first ladies, which were made from precious, half-precious stones and metals.

“I put soul and idea in my art, the beauty has no value, if it has no meaning”, - Nur said. In his works, besides precious, half-precious stones, he uses various materials, any item given by nature – feather, dried flowers, etc. Nur has been creating for already 20 years, he took part in a number of international exhibitions and presented his works in many countries – in Russia, Italy, USA, France, Germany, Austria, etc. He got many diplomas and awards, was awarded a diploma for his contribution to the development of Armenian fashion. “Nature has given everything – beautiful colors, images, sights and has collated them harmoniously, we have only to notice, to get inspired and manifest all that in art”, - Nur said.

Sandra Rulovs gave Nur as a present his book entitled “The History of the Idealist”, and the art master gave her one of his works made from silver.

37. HISTORY OF ARMENIA MANUAL AUTHORED BY ARMENIAN STATE PEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY LECTURERS PUBLISHED [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

History of Armenia manual authored by four lecturers of K. Abovian Armenian State Pedagogic University Armenian history chair (S. Poghosian, A. Asrian, K. Stepanian, E. Hovhannisian) was published. It is intended for students of non-professional faculties, as well as for a wide circle of readers.

The main events of Armenian people's historic past are briefly presented in this History of Armenia manual on the basis of sources and modern studies. The manual in a popular way presents Armenia's history from the start up to our days, there are individual parts on history of Armenian culture and Diaspora.

38. IRAN'S QARA KELISA CHURCH TO EXHIBIT ARMENIAN ART [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

On July 22-26, an exhibition will be held in Iran's West-Azarbaijan's Qara Kelisa church, which will present country's Armenian artists' artistic creations on the theme of 'church.' According to Iranian media, it will work till July 26.

Organized by the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism office in West-Azerbaijan Province, the exhibition will commemorate the martyrdom of one of the apostles of Jesus, Saint Thaddeus, who constructed Qara Kelisa (Black Church) which is in the south of the town of Maku in 68 CE, when he was returning to Armenia. The church is one of the oldest Christian churches in Iran and has a great significance for Armenian Community of Iran. Every year scores of Armenians, Assyrians and Catholics from Iran and other countries visit the church to commemorate the martyrdom of Saint Thaddeus. The church has been registered on the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage List.



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39. ARMENIAN WRITERS OF CALIFORNIA TO DISCUSS VARSIK HAKOBIAN'S BOOK "ROADS OF ANGUISH" [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

Poetess Varsik Hakobian's book "roads of Anguish" will be discussed at the coming literary event of the Armenian Writers Association of California (AWAOC) on July 2 at the Glendale Public Library.

According to the AWAOC, poet Garush Haryantz will present a literary report, which will be followed by an exchange of opinions. Literature lovers can be present at the discussion.

40. EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF MINAS AVETISIAN TO OPEN IN ITALY [ARMENPRESS, 06/26/09]

Exhibition of the best works of the renowned artist Minas Avetisian will open in Italy on March-April 2010. During today's meeting with journalists the consultant to the Armenian Culture Minister Sona Harutyunian noted that the first show will take place in Rome, then in Napoli, Venice and Florence.

According to Vigen Avetis, sculptor, representative of the Minas Avetisian fund in Florence the idea of organization of an exhibition of Minas Avetisian's works rose when the days of Arshil Gorki were held in Yerevan.

"On that aim I applied to one of the most prominent arts men of Italy Francesco Gallo; he agreed to have his investment in this issue," V. Avetis noted.

According to F. Gallo "Minas Avetisian is one of the best art figures through which the Armenian culture will inflow into the Italian reality."

Seeing Minas Avetisian's works for the first time F. Gallo has noted a modern arts figure who could "professionally used the traditional emotional state of the Armenian art".

According to him in virtue of this exhibition we want to present not only cultural assets but also science; scientific works will be conducted in this direction. Minas Avetisian's museum is also intended to open in Yerevan where the society will get acquainted with his works.

SOCIAL

41. 4 ARMENIAN SCHOOLCHILDREN TO TAKE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD IN JAPAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Four Armenian schoolchildren will this year for the first time take part in the international biology Olympiad in Japan at the second half of July.

Head of the special education department of Armenian Education and Science Ministry Nurijan Manoukian told Armenpress that 6 high grade pupils will take part in the Math Olympiad intended in Germany, and 3 pupils – of physics in Mexico. 4 schoolchildren will compete in the Chemistry and Informatics Olympiads to be organized in England and Bulgaria.

Schoolchildren ensure their participation in the international contests in different subjects in case of having best results in the Republican subject Olympiads in Armenia; the 10-11 grade pupils who take the first and second places in republican contests also take additional written examinations in Yerevan before leaving for the international contests.

Being involved in the organizational committee of corresponding international Olympiads the Armenian delegation each year takes part in the contest of knowledge. There is a certain number of pupils set for all the states in different subjects; for example utmost 6 pupils from each state can take part in the Math Olympiad and 5 pupils from Chemistry and Physics. The participation of Armenian pupils in Olympiads is being conducted with the state budget means.

N. Manoukian noted that in the international Informatics Olympiad last year the Armenian participants had by one silver and bronze medals and from chemistry and astrology – one bronze. 4 certificates have been got from Math.

42. HAYASTAN ALL-ARMENIAN FUND BUILDS SCHOOL IN ARTSAKH'S VAGHUNAS COMMUNITY [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund has begun construction of a community school in Vaghuhas, a village in Nagorno Karabakh's Martakert Region. The project is financed by benefactor Samvel Aleksanyan, the government of Nagorno Karabakh, and a number of donors.

An official from the fund told Armenpress that the planned two-story school will serve both Vaghuhas and the neighboring Village of Khnkavan, accommodating 240 students.



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“Since Vaghuhas was devastated during Artsakh’s war of liberation, we’re very hopeful that this school will both boost local education and mark a new beginning for the recovering community,” Ara Vardanyan, the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund’s executive director said.

On his part, Vaghuhas mayor Garegin Gharakhanyan described the school project as a much-welcome and confidence-building initiative for the some 700 residents of his community. He also expressed hope that the momentum of infrastructure restoration will continue in Vaghuhas and the village will soon regain its former vibrancy.

To date, the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund has implemented a slew of critically urgent community-development projects throughout Martakert. For instance, with support raised through the 2005 Telethon and contributions by various donors, the fund has built schools in the villages of Drmbon, Kochoghut, Verin Horatagh, and Mataghis, and constructed a water main in Martakert and water pipelines in Vaghuhas and Vank.

43. “NORAVANK” SCIENTIFIC-EDUCATIONAL FUND TO ORGANIZE A POLITICAL SCHOOL ON THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND INFORMATION SECURITY [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

The “Noravank” scientific-educational foundation will in September organize the first political school dedicated to the regional developments and issues of information and spiritual security.

Deputy Head of the “Noravank” foundation, head of the educational center Tigran Harutyunian told Armenpress that the initiative aims to update the issues of information and spiritual security within the context of regional developments.

Attention will be paid to the conflicts with Armenia and neighboring states, issues of information security which found place in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and the anti-Armenian propaganda in the Armenian-Turkish relations.

According to him, the professors’ staff will be established with the specialists of “Noravank” scientific-educational foundation and the representatives of state bodies of Nagorno Karabakh republic; for example the consultant to Nagorno Karabakh Foreign Minister Hrachya Arzoumanian will be involved. Foreign specialists are also intended to be involved. The auditorium will involve the bachelor and post-graduate representatives of Armenian higher educational establishments, young party people, scientific establishments and Nagorno Karabakh representatives.

T. Harutyunian noted that the school will be organized in Yerevan and Stepanakert.

44. LIBRARIES MAY ALSO MAKE USE OF THE SMALL GRANT PROJECTS OF USA DEMOCRACY COMMISSION [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Province, community and school libraries of Aragatsotn province have an opportunity to solve a number of present and future issues of their activity through the grant projects. The workers of the libraries were informed about this during the extended gathering organized by the province library after V. Petrosian and the Center of information resources of USA Embassy held June 24 in Ashtarak.

Cooperating with the NGOs of the province and the mass media the libraries can present projects of educational, scientific works and jubilee and other events and winning the project of small grants of the USA democracy commission serve them to their aim.

There are great number of issues in the libraries of the province starting with the housing conditions, absence of opportunities of preservation of the book fund and its enriching, armament with electronic techniques and the unsatisfactory reader-library link.

45. G. YEGANIAN SAYS THERE WILL BE NO EXTENDED FLOW OF LONG-TERM MIGRANTS FROM RUSSIA DURING THIS YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

In spite of the financial-economic crisis there will be no extended flow of long-term migrants from Russia this year. During today’s meeting with journalists the Head of the Migration agency of Armenian Territorial Administration Ministry Gagik Yeganian stressed that Russia is not interested in losing people who are integrated in its society and bring contribution to the state.

According to him in case people lose their job places they try to establish in other spheres even for low salary; this intends absence of mass flow of migrants. G. Yeganian noted that the same thing cannot be said of those who leave for seasonal work, the number of which has significantly reduced. Half of the 60 000-70 000 people do not leave for the outgoing work this year. According to him reduction of the number of people who leave for seasonal work will increase the tension in the Armenian labor market.



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According to him, reduction of volumes of transfers which are mainly conducted from Russia is also noted.

Each year the sums of transfers increased by 25%. But during the 4th trimester of the last year their volumes had decreased by 20% compared with the third trimester, on January this year – 25, April – 39 and in January-April – by 33.6%.

According to G. Yeghanyan, the volumes of transfers at the end of this year are dependent upon the conditions of overcoming the crisis by donor states. During the current year the volumes of passenger flows have also reduced by 1.1% compared with 2008.

“We attentively follow the migration procedures in case of necessity to interfere to be able to stay off the negative phenomena,” G. Yeghanyan concluded.

46. SEISMIC STATIONS OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE OF SEISMIC DEFENSE FROM JUNE 18-24 REGISTER 5 EARTHQUAKES OF THREE AND HIGHER MAGNITUDES [Azg, 06/25/09]

Seismic stations of the National Service of Seismic Defense from June 18-24 registered 5 earthquakes of three and higher magnitude. An official from the National Seismic Defense Service told Armenpress that at 12:34 o'clock June 18 a 4-5 magnitude earthquake took place 12 km to the north-east of Garni village. The quakes were felt in different regions of Yerevan and nearest communities. At the same epicenter zone of this earthquake numerous weak post-quakes have been registered at the same source zone of the earthquake.

6 earthquakes of 3 magnitudes and stronger force took place in the region. On June 21 and 24, 22 km to the south-east and 13 km to the south-west from the Iranian Khoi village 3 magnitude seismic quakes have been registered.

On June 22, 19 km to the south-east from Turkish Igdir town a 4-5 magnitude earthquake took place which had a 3 magnitude pre-quake and 3-4 magnitude post-quake.

The next was again registered June 22 in Turkey 28 km to the north-east from the Van town, the strength of quakes in the epicenter reached 4 magnitudes.

47. OVER 40 000 MATERIALS KEPT IN THE NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL MUSEUM-INSTITUTE [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Over 40 000 materials and 2 800 literature concerning architectural works now are registered and kept in the National Architectural museum-institute. Director of the museum, doctor of architectural sciences, Professor Ashot Grigoryan told Armenpress that the funded works comprise only the smallest part of Armenian architecture. By his words the museum has distinct problems - to create a scientific archive of up to date issues and prospective projects on Armenian architecture, construction, construction art history, to compile, preserve, study and report it by means of movable, temporary exhibitions and publishing.

The materials collected at the exhibition, after being properly studied, are registered and then are taken under state protection.

Grigoryan noted that the museum, by establishing scientific and creative relations, cooperates both with Armenian and foreign cultural centers, museums, scientific-research institutions and architects.

The museum director said that the collection of various materials representing the works of present day or previous Armenian architectures of abroad make a separate part of the museum activity.

The works of diaspora's architectures are presented in the museum separately in the departments of “Armenian Architects of Abroad” and “Architects”. The commitment of their creative heritage takes place on volunteer principle. A. Grigoryan attached importance to the steps undertaken by the museum and diaspora to bring together Armenian architects from around the world. By the words of the museum director the first all-Armenian architectural conference activated the relation of Armenian architects abroad with Armenia and the museum. “Any project has its client, belonging, which may vary between a person and the state and be of confidential nature. The project which has state confidence, makes it difficult to obtain it or transport from one country to the other, as it is necessary to ground, that it has an Armenian origin(belonging)(pertains to Armenia), - he said.

48. A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION SIGNED BETWEEN ARMENIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY AND “THE FUTURE IS YOURS” NGO [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Armenian Education and Science Minister Armen Ashotyan , director of National Education Institute Norayr Ghukasyan and chairman of “The Future is yours” benevolent, social NGO Narine



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Sargsyan today signed a memorandum of cooperation aimed at the implementation of the project "Education against Corruption".

Public relations department of the Ministry of Education and Science told Armenpress that the project will be implemented with the support of "Mobilizing Program of Anti-Corruption Activity" financed by USAID, which is aimed at the anti-corruption education and upbringing of the pupils of general educational schools.

The program will be carried out in 3 rounds. In the first round it is intended to form and publish a teacher's guide-manual containing relevant methods and materials, which afterwards will be applied in the schools of general education.

In the second round it is intended to implement a pilot project by applying the teacher's guide-manual in 8 schools of Yerevan and the provinces, during which 5-day classes will be organized concerning the pupil's anticorruption education. Teachers and specialists of education sphere will be invited to the classes, who will express their conclusions and opinions about the usefulness and applicability of the applied materials and methods during the classes.

In the third round of the project 3-day trainings for the teachers of Armenian provinces and Yerevan are to be conducted, as a result of which the teachers will get relevant certificates and will be provided with methodic guide-manuals.

49. THE SCHEDULE FOR ADDITIONAL UNIFIED EXAMS HAS ALREADY BEEN CONFIRMED [ARMENPRESS, 06/25/09]

Armenian Education and Science Ministry has already confirmed the schedule of conducting additional unified examinations. The press officer of the Estimating and Testing Centre Gayane Manukyan told Armenpress that the additional unified exams on the subjects of "biology", "geography", "general history" are to take place July 4. The additional exams of the subjects "Armenian language" and "Literature" are intended to take place July 6, "Mathematics" – July 8.

The examination on foreign language of the second round is to take place July 10, "Physics" – July 12, "Armenian History" and "Chemistry" – July 14. The examination of Russian language is to be conducted July 16.

The Estimation and Testing Centre has begun the process of tender reception of state graduation and unified additional exams on these subjects since June 24 and will finish July 2.

50. TBILISI EXPERTS SATISFIED WITH INSTRUCTION QUALITY AT ARMENIAN SCHOOL IN AKHALTSKHA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

Experts of the Georgian ministry of education Natia Bokeria and Nino Berishvili recently arrived in Akhalkalak from Tbilisi with the aim of checking the quality of instruction and the use of new educational methods at school No 3 after Hovhannes Tumanian in Akhaltskha.

During the visit, they became acquainted with the everyday life of primary school pupils, went to the school museum.

The guests left Akhaltskha with good impressions, ranking the Armenian school No 3 among the best ones, A-Info news agency reported.

51. TWO SUSPECTS IN ISTANBUL-BASED ARMENIAN JEWELER MURDER CASE ARRESTED [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

Turkish police arrested two persons suspected of killing Istanbul-based Armenian jeweller Minas Aggaya. The suspects were detained during Aggaya's funeral ceremony in St. Vardanants Church in Ferigyugh, Marmara daily reported, noting that their faces were recorded by the security camera installed at Aggaya's jewelry workshop. The camera had been taken to the police for examination. No other details were given.

52. DRINKING WATER PROBLEMS IN SHVANIDZOR VILLAGE OF MEGHRI REGION TO BE SOLVED WITH ASSISTANCE OF ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OF IRAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

The problem of drinking water in Shvanidzor village of Meghri region is planned to be solved according to the program which is implemented since the beginning of June with the funds of the Armenian community of Iran, Hayastan All Armenian Fund and Civilitas Foundation. Within the framework of the program one of the wells of the village will be cleaned and repaired, the drinking water will be



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chlorinated, the drinking water pipeline will be lengthened with 350 metres, 1.8 km of which was built two years ago with the assistance of the Rec Caucasus company. At that time a supplementary pool was also built in the village.

Village community head Hovhannes Ohanian told Noyan Tapan correspondent that within the framework of the program it is planned to build some more pools to store the water. The community of Svanidzor got a tractor as a present within the framework of the program which the village needed badly.

53. HOT WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM WITH SUN WATER HEATERS PUT INTO OPERATION AT VAZGENIAN SPIRITUAL SEMINARY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

The ceremony of putting into operation hot water supply system with sun water heaters took place on June 24 at Sevan Vazgenian Spiritual Seminary, under the chairmanship of Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. The SolarEn specialized company implemented the system installation works.

As Noyan Tapan was informed by the Information Services of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, hot water supply needs of Sevan Vazgenian Seminary were covered by means of the sun water heating collectors with the total surface of 60 square meters, set in the territory of the seminary.

54. THIS YEAR TOO ARMENIAN YOUNG LECTURERS TO BE TRAINED IN THE USA [ARMENPRESS, 06/26/09]

Within the frameworks of "Project of training of young lecturers" of the "American Councils of International Education" this year too lecturers from Armenia will be retrained in the USA.

Head of the Armenian office of the organization Nane Abrahamyan told Armenpress that the project aims at giving an opportunity to the lecturers of Armenian, CIS and Eastern Europe higher educational establishments to be trained in humanitarian and social sciences. Courses will be held in American studies, architecture and urban building, art management, business management, economy, nature protection, international relations, journalism, legal sciences, sociology and other professions.

The participants of the project in the USA will also be present at the scientific meetings and be invited to teach and co-teach in the universities. The courses will be held from January 2010 by the end of May. August 7 is the deadline for admission of applications of participation in the project.

"The project participants are encouraged to establish relations between the USA and Armenian universities for the long-term cooperation. In Armenia the project is being held since 2000; the participants had an opportunity to closely cooperate with their American partners," N. Abrahamyan said.

In the USA they study new methods of teaching, make the American lecturers and students acquainted with the educational systems, culture of their states as well as establish relations with the universities of the USA and their states aiming to launch further cooperation and implement projects.

55. TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARMENIA-USA DIRECT FLIGHT BEING CLARIFIED [ARMENPRESS, 06/26/09]

The terms of implementation of Armenia-USA direct flight are not yet clarified.

Press service of the Government-affiliated Chief Department of Civil Aviation told Armenpress that the visit of the American side to Armenia is expected for the discussions and clarification of the flight terms.

Armenia-USA flight will be conducted by "Armavia" airlines which is at present conducting preparatory works in that direction, negotiations are held with a number of companies for purchase of a corresponding airplane.

The Armenian and USA airlines have an opportunity to conduct a direct flight within the frameworks of "Air communication" (Open air) treaty which was signed 21 November 2008 between Armenian and USA governments in Washington and came into force 16 June this year.

56. DURING THE FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR "ZVARTNOTS" INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IMPLEMENTS 2,977 FLIGHT-LANDINGS [ARMENPRESS, 06/26/09]

During the first five months of this year the "Zvartnots" international airport implements 2,977 flight-landings instead of the 3,278 of the same period last year.



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Press service of the Government-affiliated Chief Department of Civil Aviation told Armenpress that during the same period the overall passenger transportation of the airport reached 446,910 instead of the 479,086 of the January-May of the last year.

During the mentioned period through the "Zvartnots" airport 202,619 people arrived and 244,291 people left the country. The volumes of exported cargos reached 658 tons instead of the 1,026 of the last year; the volumes of the imported cargos reached 1,796 tons instead of the 2,419 for the five months of the last year.

The number of flight-landings of the Gyumri "Shirak" airport during January-May reached 69 instead of the 60 for the same period last year.

Through the airport 3,006 people arrived in the republic and 4,602 left it. The general passenger transportations of "Shirak" airport for this year reached 7,608 instead of the 8,399 of the same period last year.

57. A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NGOs DEALING WITH THE ISSUES OF HANDICAPPED PEOPLE IS INTENDED TO BE ESTABLISHED [ARMENPRESS, 06/26/09]

"State employment Service" agency of Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Ministry intends to establish a national association of NGOs dealing with the issues of the handicapped people.

Head of the Labor consultation and information department of the agency Tsoghik Bezhanian told Armenpress that the establishment of the association will give an opportunity to involve the NGOs dealing with the issues of handicapped people in the process of drafting and implementation of the projects directed towards the employment.

Meeting with the heads of 18 NGOs has already been conducted and the expediency of establishment of such an association has been discussed. According to Ts. Bezhanian the feedback of nearly all the participating NGOs was positive. The next meeting with the representatives of 15 NGOs will be organized next week during which the charter of the institution to be established, further steps of the state registration and other organizational issues will be discussed.

"We have studied the experience of different states in the support to the disabled people and already have certain drafted models. The association of the disabled people affairs must assist in the implementation of the best models in Armenia".

58. IT IS INTENDED TO ESTABLISH NATURE MUSEUMS IN VANADZOR, GYUMRI, GAVAR AND MEGHRI [ARMENPRESS, 06/26/09]

Armenian Nature Protection Ministry intends to add the number of the nature museums of the republic mainly with support of international donor organizations. At present there are four of them – "Sevan", "Dilijan", "Khosrov's Woods" national parks and Armenian State Nature museums.

Artashes Ziroyan, the director of the agency of Life Resources Management of the Ministry of Nature Protection told Armenpress that it is intended to establish nature museums also in Vanadzor, Gyumri, Gavar and Meghri in the upcoming years.

The operating museums, according to A. Ziroyan, are in good condition. "Due to these museums in Armenia already a culture of nature protection has been developed. Especially the children of school age receive eco-education by means of those museums", -he said.

Nature museums implement other important functions as well – they give people the opportunity of being closer to nature, make the country more attractive for tourists. By Ziroyan's words by the assignment of the Minister of Nation Protection a primary importance is given to the training of the specialists of nature museums. The majority of them must carry out the functions of a guide. By another assignment of the Minister the exit of those museums is already free of charge.

SPORTS

59. 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIGRAN PETROSIAN'S BIRTH MARKED IN ESTONIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

An open chess tournament dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the world champion Tigran Petrosian's birth was held in Estonia. Robert Dubrovin and Georg Nero became the winners. According to miasin.ru, some of the participants in the tournament were the same age as Tigran Petrosian, they knew him during his lifetime. They came with photos, documents and souvenirs. Lembit Vakhesaar, who was an arbiter at the famous Karpov-Kasparov match, showed a historical document - the original of Tigran



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Petrosian's application-complaint at the 1979 Tallinn Tournament, when during the Petrosian-Elvest game the young Estonian player left the hall for 10 minutes.

The impression was that the chess players of Estonia had been waiting for this event - the tournament in memory of Tigran Petrosian, and it will certainly have its place in the timetable of Estonia's chess competitions, the paper reported.

60. ARMENIAN RIDERS TAKE 5TH PLACE AT INTERNATIONAL ROAD BICYCLE RACING EVENT IN TURKEY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/24/09]

An international 6-stage 480-km road bicycle racing event finished in the Turkish city of Kunia on June 21.

The Armenian rider Aram Melikian competed successfully: he finished fifth in the 3rd stage (46 km) and the 6th stage (78 km).

Out of 14 participating teams from 8 countries, the Armenian team took 5th place, being surpassed by teams of Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, Turkey and Syria. Georgian team took 7th place, Azerbaijani team was in 13th place.

61. ARMENIAN TEAM TAKES 8TH PLACE AT EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

On June 24 the Armenian team returned home from the 1st European Athletics Team Championships held in Sarajevo. The 25-member team of Armenia competed with 14 teams in Group 3 and took 8th place.

As was reported previously, long-jumper Vardan Pahlevanian became the winner with a result of 7.82 meters. Haykanush Beklarian competed successfully in triple jump: with a result of 13.07 meters she took 2nd place and surpassed her own record of Armenia by one centimeter. Aram Davtian of the city of Artashat was third with a result of 1 min 51.97 sec in the 800 meter running race.

62. COMPETITORS OF FOOTBALL TEAMS OF ARMENIA AT EUROPEAN TOURNAMENTS KNOWN [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

The sortition of the football tournaments of the 2009-2010 European tournament season took place in the city of Nyon, Switzerland, on June 22.

77 teams from 52 countries will participate in the champions' league cup tournament. Pyunik will compete here with Serbian Dinamo. The first matches are scheduled for June 30 and July 1. 193 teams from 53 UEFA member countries will participate in the European cup tournaments. The competitor of the Armenian Banants is Siroki Brijeg of Bosnia, Mika will compete with Helsing Borg of Sweden. The first meeting will take place on July 2 and 9. Gandzasar of Kapan will start its competition in the tournament from the 2nd stage.

63. 7 JUDOISTS OF ARMENIA TO PARTICIPATE IN EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/25/09]

The judo national team of Armenia will leave for the city of Koper, Slovenia on June 25 where it will participate in the European Junior Championship. Coach of the team Martin Sargsian will accompany 6 boy and 1 girl judoists to the competition field.

The championship will finish on June 28.

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