



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

AGBU NEWS

1. TSVATANA PASKALEVA REWARDED

AGBU "GARBIS PAPAZIAN" AWARD CEREMONY ON JULY 3 [Azg, 07/01/09]

Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) "Garbis Papazian" award ceremony will take place on July 3 at Aram Khachatrian concert hall. This year the award will be presented to famous Bulgarian director, cinematographer and reporter Tsvetana Paskaleva. Austrian-Armenian benefactor Garbis Papazian's award is given annually to non-Armenian scholars and intellectuals, who, through their scholarly research and publications, contribute to the propagation of Armenian cause, heritage, literature, language and history. Since 1988, 24 famous scholars and intellectuals from all over the world, including Tessa Hoffman, Hermann Goltz and Wolfgang Gust from Germany, Christopher Walker and Baroness Caroline Cox from Great Britain, Kim Bakshi from Russian, Ahmad Nourizadeh from Iran, Yves Ternon and Andre' Santini from France have received the award.

In 1991-1994 Paskaleva worked in Nagorno Karabakh covering the heroic battle and presenting the conflict of Karabakh to the international community. She was the first foreign journalist to be in Shahumian region during the "Oghak" (Circle) operation, to make reportages on the mass deportations and ferocities against the Armenian nation and show them to the world. She became a freelance reporter for CNN, NBC, French Antene-2, Bulgarian, Russian, German televisions and Reuter agency and sent reportages from the hotbeds of the front.

Tsvetana Paskaleva was born in the city of Nova Zagora, Bulgaria. She graduated from the Moscow State Institute of Theater Art in 1984, did her post graduate studies at the Moscow State Institute of Cinematography.

She was the first foreign journalist in South Ossetia to cover the 1990 conflict between South Ossetia and Georgia. Paskaleva made 10 TV reportages and produced a documentary called "South Ossetia: the Pain of Two Nations".

Paskaleva directed seven documentaries (in Armenian, Russian and English) dedicated to the liberation struggle of Artsakh under the general title of "Karabakh Wounds". During the period of 1991-1995 she directed "Heights of hope" (1991), "Will the dawn return to Karabakh?" (1992), "My dears, living and dead" (1993), "Karabakh Wounds" (1994), "Soldiers of the land" (1994), and "Ceasefire" (1995). These films have won prizes at the international film festivals of Geneva (1992), Hollywood (1993), Ohio and Vermont (USA, 1994). In 2001 she directed a documentary called "Spirit and Faith" dedicated to the liberation of Shushi.

Besides the official award ceremony the program of the July 3 evening also includes the showing of Paskaleva's "My dears, living and dead" documentary film and Avet Terterian's symphony # 3 by the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra. The award will be presented to Paskaleva by Razmik Hartunian-Tamazian, "Garbis Papazian" award jury representative, who will arrive in Yerevan from Austria for that purpose. Members of the AGBU Central Board will also be present.

In 1993-1994 Paskaleva showed her films in the US Congress, the Parliament of Canada, the UN, "Amnesty International" and other organizations, made speeches in defense of liberation struggle of Artsakh Armenians. Thrice the Azerbaijani authorities have sentenced Paskaleva to death in absentia.

The 2009 award goes to Tsvetana Paskaleva for her courageous, truthful presentation of the Artsakh liberation struggle and her unwavering devotion to Armenia.

In the period of 1995-1997 Paskaleva has been the host of "My dears, living and dead" program on the Armenian National Television dedicated to the past and the present of Artsakh, and her own publicistic-analytical TV program "Aspect" about the problems of Armenia and NKR in 1998-2001. Since 2009 Tsvetana Paskaleva's new program "Ray" is being aired on "Ararat" TV channel of Armenia.

She is a member of International Documentary Association (L.A., USA) Unions of Journalists of Armenia and Bulgaria, and Unions of Cinematographers of Armenia and Bulgaria.

Paskaleva has been awarded with "Yeghishe" prize of Artsakh Writers' Union, and with "Courage" medal of the Republic of Armenia. She is a Karabakh Defense Army Colonel since 1995.



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POLITICS

2. ARMENIAN OPPOSITION MAINLY SATISFIED WITH PACE RESOLUTION [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

The last PACE Resolution on activity of democratic institutions in Armenia has more positive than negative provisions. Armenian National Congress (ANC) representative Levon Zurabian expressed such an opinion at the June 25 press conference. In his words, the words of praise addressed to the Armenian authorities in the Resolution was the price to be paid for release of the most part of the political prisoners. He attached importance to the fact that the Assembly also calls the authorities for releasing the political prisoners, to which the amnesty was not extended. By the way, according to L. Zurabian, Armenian delegation's member, Chairman of the NA Standing Committee on State and Legal Issues David Haroutiunian struggled to remove these provisions from the Resolution text, therefore he is personally responsible for NA deputy Sasun Mikayelian's and other political prisoners' remaining in prison.

L. Zurabian also attached importance to the circumstance that in spite of the authorities' efforts, the necessity of returning on air the A1+ TV company is mentioned in the document.

Meanwhile L. Zurabian said that but for Congress' efforts and people's struggle, the European structures would not have made these demands to the Armenian authorities.

3. ANC INTENDS TO CREATE NEW FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

The Armenian National Congress (ANC) is going to create a new fact-finding committee of experts to continue the work of the fact-finding committee on the 2008 March 1-2 events dissolved by the RA President lately. ANC representative Levon Zurabian reported this on June 25.

He said that Congress had passed its facts to the fact-finding committee. According to one of them, 950 military uniforms were passed to some oligarches' skinheads from a military unit, and later they organized all March 1 provocations and organized shops' robbery in the evening. Fact-finding committee members visited the above mentioned military unit to reveal the details, but a number of high-ranking officers arriving at the scene of action some time later hindered their work motivating it by secrecy of information the committee demanded.

L. Zurabian said that in fact, the fact-finding committee did the work the law enforcement bodies should have done. As a result, there are a great number of video and audio recordings of eye-witnesses and witnesses, which will be either publicized or passed to the fact-finding committee to be created.

4. PACE ADOPTS RESOLUTION N 1677 ON ACTIVITY OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

The Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE) at the June 25 evening sitting adopted Resolution N 1677 on activity of democratic institutions in Armenia. It is already the fourth resolution on the same issue adopted after the 2008 presidential elections.

The Resolution, in particular, stipulates that the demands and proposals of PACE Resolutions N 1609 and 1620 adopted in 2008, as well as of Resolution N 1643 adopted in 2009 are a concrete and realistic "road-map" of overcoming the political crisis that emerged after the presidential elections in Armenia and they are completely in force. According to it, PACE will continue observing the process of fulfillment of the Resolutions' demands.

In that respect, in particular, the Resolution attaches importance to reforms in the spheres of justice, Police, electoral systems and to the necessity to reveal the death circumstances of the 10 persons who died on March 1. The Resolution stipulates that the Assembly welcomes Armenian President's decision, by which he demands from the Prosecutor General to introduce a complete report on the investigation to the NA Ad-hoc Committee on Events Occurred on 1-2 March in Yerevan and Their Reasons. Meanwhile PACE feels sorry for dissolution of the fact-finding committee and calls the committee former members for presenting their conclusions to the above mentioned NA Ad-hoc Committee.

PACE also welcomes the decision on granting an amnesty mentioning that it is going to observe the further developments regarding cases of persons accused or convicted on March 1 events, to whom the amnesty did not extend.



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5. SERZH SARGSYAN: ARMENIA IS INTERESTED IN HAVING PEACEFUL, STABLE AND PROSPEROUS NEIGHBOR, GEORGIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

RA President Serzh Sargsyan at a joint press conference with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili made a statement, which, in particular, read:

"Few peoples in the world can be proud of the fact of having such long-lasting friendly relations like relations between the Armenian and Georgian peoples. It is needless to say what significance our peoples have for each other in political, economic, cultural, and many other respects. And I am sure that one of the primary concerns of the two country heads should be to raise the interstate relations to the level of our peoples' centuries-old relations. I must say that during my contacts with President Saakashvili I formed an impression, more exactly, I am convinced that he also shares these approaches, and I am glad for it.

We have discussed the whole complex of bilateral relations and regional problems. Problems of regional security were paid a special attention in this respect. The Armenian side has repeatedly stressed in the past and at present holds the opinion that solution of all conflicts can be achieved only through a dialogue, strengthening of confidence in the region, mutual respect and cooperation. We welcome any step aimed at creating a favorable atmosphere in the region.

In the context of development of bilateral relations we paid a special attention to issues of deepening economic cooperation and fulfillment of joint initiatives. We hope it will contribute to decrease of the consequences of world economic crisis influence on Armenia's and Georgia's economies.

Armenia attaches much importance to communications laying through the territory of Georgia that have an essential importance for our economy. In this respect we have expressed an interest in quick relaunching of the land car check-point between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

The Armenian community of Georgia has always been the firmest bridge connecting us. The two governments' interest in strengthening of Georgian Armenian community is understandable in this respect. We, in particular, welcome the steps undertaken by the Georgian government to mitigate the socio-economic situation in Javakhk, to improve the infrastructures, and to create new jobs. We are ready to support this process on our part.

I have informed Mr President about the developments in the Nagorno Karabakh settlement. I have also informed him about the normalization prospects of Armenian-Turkish relations and our approaches over them. Our approach is clear: the relations should be normalized without preconditions. The regional countries should find cooperation verges in spite of the disagreements.

Armenia is interested in having a peaceful, stable and prosperous neighbor, Georgia, with which we have not only common past, but also common future. In this respect we arranged to make active contacts between our citizens, make active student exchanges, cultural contacts mentioning Days of Georgian Culture held this year in Armenia and Armenian Cultural Program planned next year in Georgia as its successful example. We also arranged to hold annual Armenian-Georgian sports games, as well as at Mr President's suggestion we will hold olympiads for pupils every year. In all probability, the first olympiad will take place this autumn.

6. MIKHEIL SAKASHVILI AWARDED ARMENIAN ORDER OF HONOR [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili arrived in Armenia on a two-day official visit with his wife, Sandra Rulovs on June 24. High-ranking guest's solemn meeting ceremony at RA President's residence was followed by Presidents Serzh Sargsyan's and Mikheil Saakashvili's tete-a-tete talk, after which official delegations' meeting in an enlarged staff took place.

Mentioning that few peoples in the world can be proud of such long-lasting and good-neighborly relations like relations between Armenian and Georgian peoples, S. Sargsyan said: "We are obliged to multiply what we inherited from our ancestors."

S. Sargsyan and M. Saakashvili said that frequent meetings and negotiations help to quickly clarify issues of bilateral interest and ways of their solution.

As Noyan Tapan was informed by the RA President's Press Office, issues related to cargo transportations through the territory of Georgia, bilateral communication, tourism development, as well as educational-cultural cooperation were discussed during the negotiations. The process of Armenian-Georgian border's demarcation was also touched upon.

For making active the contacts between the Armenian and Georgian peoples S. Sargsyan attached importance to the necessity of organizing joint events in various spheres and making them traditional. He, in particular, suggested holding annual school olympiads in various subjects, as well as sports contests. They arranged to hold the first school olympiad this autumn.



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At the end of the meeting S. Sargsyan awarded Order of Honor to Mikheil Saakashvili, which is the highest state award of Armenia given to foreign citizens and which the Georgian President was awarded by the RA President's June 24 decree, for his activity aimed at strengthening the Armenian-Georgian centuries-old friendship, deepening cooperation between Armenia and Georgia.

7. AMBASSADOR OF INDIA REENA PANDEY FINISHES HER DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan received Reena Pandey, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India on the occasion of finishing her diplomatic mission in Armenia. Appreciating the Ambassador's contribution in the issue of developing the relations between the two countries, S. Sargsyan emphasized with satisfaction the high level of the Armenian-Indian political dialogue, the growing speed of the trade circulation which has doubled this year. He also expressed his gratitude to the government of India for the attitude towards the Indian Armenian community.

According to the report of the RA President's Press Office, the parties emphasized the effective cooperation of both countries at different international instances. R. Pandey said that her country appreciates the position of Armenia on the most important issues for India. S. Sargsyan welcomed in his turn the balanced approach of India towards problems of the South Caucasian region.

8. RA FOREIGN MINISTER TAKES PART IN OSCE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN GREECE [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian took part in the OSCE Foreign Ministers' unofficial meeting on June 28 in Corfu Island, Greece, dedicated to issues of security strengthening in Europe. 45 Foreign Ministers of OSCE member-countries', high-ranking representatives of CSTO, CIS, EU, NATO and OSCE took part in the meeting.

E. Nalbandian made a speech at the meeting presenting Armenia's views on provision of security in Europe.

"The security agreements operating before were connected with the reality that has changed today. Time has come to work out more efficient Euroatlantic security system maybe in the form of a European security treaty, which will exactly stipulate that general security is inseparable, that states do not build their security at the expense of others, that you cannot recognize one's right rejecting the same right of another, when use of force or its threat have no room, when all countries unite their efforts to fight general dangers. Under presence of these components we will be able to efficiently resist the current challenges," the RA Foreign Minister said.

As Noyan Tapan was informed by the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department, within the framework of the OSCE Foreign Ministers' meeting the RA Foreign Minister also took part in the meeting of CSTO member-countries' Foreign Ministers, had a number of bilateral meetings.

Development ways of bilateral relations in political and economic spheres were discussed at the meeting with Foreign Minister of Denmark Per Stig Moller. The Ministers exchanged thoughts over issues of providing security in the South Caucasus. Accepting E. Nalbandian's invitation to visit Armenia, Per Stig Moller said that he will arrive in Yerevan this autumn.

Further deepening of bilateral relations was touched upon at the meeting with Foreign Minister of Switzerland Micheline Calmy-Rey. The Foreign Minister of Switzerland informed E. Nalbandian about the decision of founding a diplomatic representation in Yerevan.

E. Nalbandian also met with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg in Corfu. Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon was also present at the meeting. Issues regarding various spheres of Armenian-American friendly relations, possibilities of development and expansion of cooperation were touched upon during the talk. A number of international and regional issues were also discussed at the meeting.

E. Nalbandian also met with European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner and had a detailed talk over various spheres of Armenia-European Union cooperation. At Commissioner's request the RA Foreign Minister presented the latest developments in the Nagorno Karabakh settlement negotiations process.

Possibilities of bilateral cooperation and expansion of the legal-contractual sphere were discussed at the meeting with Foreign Minister of Canada Lawrence Cannon. E. Nalbandian and L. Cannon touched upon possibilities of the two countries' cooperation at international organizations.



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Activation and strengthening of bilateral relations were touched upon at the meeting of E. Nalbandian with Foreign Minister of Ireland Micheal Martin. The Ministers discussed joint steps aimed at development of political dialogue, economic cooperation and cultural contacts.

9. WILL FRENCH AUTHORITIES RESPOND TO ANTI-ARMENIAN MANIFESTATIONS? [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

According to the VAN organization working in France, notes of Nazi character were discovered on the entrance doors of the Saint Peter (Surb Petros) Armenian church of the Saint-Chamond city of Loire province, France: "Armenia-Nazi," "Armenia Le Pen-right extremist," "Death to Armenia." In VAN's opinion, these notes were made early in the morning of April 26, after the Sipan Komitas choir had performed in the mentioned church on the commemoration day of the Armenian Genocide victims, April 24. The hayernaysor.am electronic newspaper reported this. According to the same source, the Armenian organizations of Loire and Saint-Chamond introduced a complaint to Saint-Chamond Police on the incident, but received no response.

According to VAN, it is not the first anti-Armenian manifestation in Saint-Chamond: a memorial of Armenian Genocide victims had been defiled with notes made with gas balloons, as well as the name board of the April 24 park had been broken or removed for many times before.

According to the armenews.com website of the Nouvelles d'Armenie magazine published in France, in June non-identified persons with an abusive note and picture defiled an Armenian khachkar (cross-stone) in the city of Issy-les-Moulineaux. The Armenian organizations applied to Mayor, French National Assembly deputy Michel Barnier elected from Issy-les-Moulineaux in this connection, with the request of organizing a meeting to discuss the issue, but were refused. By the way, he had a meeting with city's Armenian community the day before the European Parliament elections to ask for voting for him.

Infringements on the Armenian community of France are also manifested in the form of terrorism and physical retributions: according to the same website, on June 5 and 9 an Armenian young man was stabbed with a knife in his face. According to the data of Hrach Aslanian, the Head of the European Armenian Communities' Department of the RA Ministry of Diaspora, he is the son of Vice-Chairman and former Chairman of CCAF - Le Conseil de coordination des organisations armeniennes de France Ara Toranian.

In connection with the incidents CCAF conveyed a complaint to French Minister of Internal Affairs Mrs Michelle Alliot-Marie for not pursuing investigations on the facts of criminally liable anti-Armenian manifestations, the Council demanded undertaking measures that are used to reveal those guilty of infringements on other communities of France and to punish them. The Minister has not responded to the application so far.

It was mentioned that on October 12, 2006 the French National Assembly adopted a law envisaging criminal prosecution for denying the fact of Armenian Genocide. The law can come in force in case of being adopted by the Senate, but it does not take place as the UMP (People's Movement) ruling party of French President Nicolas Sarkozy making a majority there as if has imposed a ban on law's adoption. By the way, according to the armnews.com, both the right and left parties of France had promised to ensure adoption of the law before the European Parliament elections held on June 8. However, the very next day they forgot their promise, and CCAF had to organize actions of protest before all influential French parties' offices reminding them of their promise.

10. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES MISSIONARY DEVOTEE TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan received today missionary devotee of Rome Pope Benedict 16th to Armenia Claudio Gujerrotti (residence in Tbilisi).

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the devotee conveyed the best wishes of Rome Pope to the Armenian president. During the meeting, Serzh Sargsyan, welcoming the guest, said that being missionary devotee of Rome Pope for many years, C. Gujerrotti contributed his experience and knowledge to the development and activation of relations between Armenia and Vatican.

Armenian president highly underscored the role of Vatican not only as a spiritual center but as a defender of human rights and moral norms, seeker of tolerance, mutual understanding and peace.

The leader of the country said that Armenia is greatly interested in regional stability and security, peace and finds that the existing issues must be regulated through dialogue and not by the usage of force and builds all its activities stemming from that conviction.



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The interlocutors also spoke about Armenia and Vatican relations, referred to their further expansion.

11. THE NA SPEAKER H. ABRAHAMIAN ADDRESSES A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE ARMENIAN PRESIDENT S. SARGSYAN ON THE 55TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

The NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan addressed a congratulatory message to the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on the 55th birthday anniversary. Public relations department of the Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that the message particularly says:

“Honorable Mr. President,

I heartily congratulate You on your 55th birthday anniversary. Your experience of years contains a great store of personal devotion which has and will continue to serve to the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian nation. I'm sure that the years will still have valuable events to record.

I'm sure that your assets as a leader and a human being – patience, hard working and tolerance will be an example for each state and political figure. I'm also sure that with your leadership our state will achieve new successes and our nation will have new achievements of unity.

I'm ready to assist all your achievements as much as I can. Congratulations on your birthday anniversary, I wish you strong health, power and enthusiasm, success and happiness.”

12. RUSSIAN PRESIDENT DMITRY MEDVEDEV CONGRATULATES THE ARMENIAN PRESIDENT [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

During today's phone conversation the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev congratulated the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan. On the occasion of his birthday anniversary the Russian President has also addressed a congratulatory message to the Armenian President.

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that the message particularly says:

“Honorable Mr. Sargsyan,

I heartily congratulate You on the 55th birthday anniversary.

As a responsible political figure you are doing much in the socio-economic development of Armenia and increase of its authority in the international arena. Russia highly assesses your consistent steps towards the consolidation of strategic partnership between our states and enhancement of multilateral cooperation.

I warmly remember our latest meetings in Moscow and St. Petersburg. As always they passed in a constructive and confidence atmosphere and once more showed that the Armenian-Russian relations have a great future. I am sure that such a favorable atmosphere will continue to contribute to the enhancement of political dialogue and cooperation between Armenia and Russia to the welfare of our states and peoples and in favor of peace and stability in the region.

Honorable Mr. Sargsyan I heartily wish you a strong health and new achievements in favor of the Armenian people. I wish happiness and success to your relatives and friends.”

13. ARMENIAN PM RECEIVES CULTURE MINISTER OF SYRIA [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 06/30/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today Culture Minister of Syrian Arab Republic Riad Naasan Agha.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that greeting the guest the prime minister said that immediately after the visit of the President of Syria to Armenia the conduction of the Syrian Cultural Days in Armenia followed as a new manifestation of bilateral cooperation.

The Syrian minister conveyed to the Armenian Prime Minister warm greetings of the Syrian prime minister.

During the conversation the sides assessed the cultural cooperation between the two countries as stable and developing which may be promoted by the activation of economic ties and tourism.

14. NO MEETING OF ARMENIAN AND TURKISH FMs TOOK PLACE IN CORFU [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

Armenian and Turkish foreign ministers did not meet in the Greek Island of Corfu within the framework of the OSCE foreign ministers' non-official meeting. Commenting with the request of Armenpress on the information spread by the Turkish press about the meeting of the Armenian and



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Turkish foreign ministers June 28 in Corfu, Tigran Balayan said that the information does not correspond to reality.

Earlier the Turkish foreign minister expressed intention on the meeting with Edward Nalbandyan within the framework of the gathering of the OSCE foreign ministers but no such agreement has been reached.

15. DEFENSE MINISTER S. OHANYAN RECEIVES GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA A. WICTORINI [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan received today ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Armenia Mrs. Andrea Wictorini on the occasion of ending her diplomatic mission in Armenia.

The spokesman of the Defense Minister, Colonel Seyran Shahsuvaryan told Armenpress that Armenian Defense Minister expressed gratitude to the ambassador for the efficient cooperation, as well as for her personal contribution to the development of the relations of the two countries and wished good luck in her further missions.

S. Ohanyan highly assessed the ambassador's activity and efforts towards the development of defense cooperation between Armenia and Germany, partially in the spheres of military education and military medicine, as well as in peacekeeping missions.

At the end of the meeting the sides expressed hope that Armenian-German relations and friendly ties will strengthen even more, including in the sphere of defense.

16. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER CONGRATULATES SERZH SARGSYAN ON HIS BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan congratulated today the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on the 55th birthday anniversary. Information and Public Relations department of Armenian Government told Armenpress that the Prime Minister's message particularly says:

"Honorable Mr. President

Accept my warm congratulations and kind wishes on your 55th birthday anniversary. I wish you strong health, happiness and new achievements to the welfare of Armenia and the Armenian people.

I once more congratulate you and wish you all the best."

17. D. HARUTYUNIAN SAYS THE PACE 1677 RESOLUTION IS AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

The 1677 resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is an objective assessment of the situation which sets priorities the state must follow, during today's press conference said the head of the NA permanent commission for the state-legal affairs, head of the Armenian delegation to the PACE Davit Harutyunian stressing that for him as a head of the delegation, the discussions on Armenia were prior in the summer session of the assembly, proposals were presented which were adopted by the monitoring commission as well as by the assembly.

He considers it notable that in the resolution the 1.5 year's process and implemented changes are welcomed. The assembly expressed also its position on declaring amnesty.

According to him, the Assembly considers that there is an enough ground established for the launch of the dialogue between the political forces and its enhancement.

18. OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE SAYS THERE ARE "POSITIVE IMPULSES" IN THE KARABAKH CONFLICT NEGOTIATION PROCESS [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

OSCE Chairperson-in-office Dora Bakoyannis stated that she approves the present development in the Karabakh conflict negotiation process.

"I am encouraged with the present development of the negotiation process and constructive dialogues. There is a positive impulse in these discussions which is a vital aspect for further negotiations," said Mrs. Bakoyannis on the eve of her regional visit.

Referring to the OSCE Minsk Group she noted that fully defends the activity of Minsk Group co-chairs as well as the work of the personal representative of CiO Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk towards establishment of mutual trust.



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“But we are concerned with the incidents which take place on the front line. And I urge the sides to fully implement the ceasefire treaty as well as to withdraw the snipers from the frontline, like the co-chairs proposed,” the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office said.

19. CHARLES AZNAVOUR HANDS OVER HIS CREDENTIALS IN UN GENEVA HEADQUARTERS [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 06/30/09]

Armenian Permanent Representative to UN Charles Aznavour handed over his credentials to the head of the UN Geneva headquarters Sergo Orjonikidze at the end of the last week.

During the conversation following the ceremony of handing of the credentials, S. Orjonikidze, highly assessing the decision of the President of Armenia on entrusting the defense of Armenia's interests at the high international instance to the world-famous artist, noted that the activity of Charles Aznavour will be important both for Armenia and UN.

According to the Press and Information Department of RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ceremony of giving the credentials was widely covered by Swiss and international media.

20. ZARUHI POSTANJIAN CONSIDERS HER MISSION IN PACE AS PRO-ARMENIAN AND SUCCESSFUL [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

The member of the RA National Assembly "Heritage" faction Zaruhi Postanjian considers her mission in the summer session of the PACE as pro-Armenian and successful. Declaring this at the June 29 press conference, Zaruhi who is also a member of the Armenian delegation in the PACE said that there was nothing extraordinary in the fact that she had allowed Azerbaijani and Turkish delegates to put their signatures under her proposals.

To recap, Z. Postanjian prepared a document that proposes releasing all the persons deprived of liberty for political motivations and reorganizing the fact-finding group on inquiry into the March 1-2 events with the involvement of international experts. The documents also proposes that the PACE co-rapporteurs on Armenia visit the country and work out a report on the implementation of PACE resolutions by Armenia.

In connection with the "black PR" conducted by some mass media outlets of Armenia regarding her activities, she said that the reason is that she had foiled the head of the Armenian delegation in the PACE, representative of RPA David Harutyunian's efforts aimed at covering up the March 1 events and "opening a new page".

The member of the NA "Heritage" faction Styepa Safarian in his turn reminded that some representatives of the ruling political coalition have voted for adoption of not pro-Armenian documents at international structures. For example, during the sitting of the PACE Monitoring Committee in Kiev on May 26-27, 2008, members of the Armenian delegation in the PACE David Harutyunian (RPA) and Avet Adonts (Prosperous Armenia party) voted for the decision which in particular read: "The sustainable democratic development will be extremely difficult in Azerbaijan until the territorial integrity of the country is restored". During the June 9-11, 2008 session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) held in Athens, the head of the Armenian delegation, RPA member Gagik Minasian voted in favor of the recommendation, by which the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is considered one of the extremist and separatist conflicts.

It was mentioned at the press conference that the proposals presented by Z. Postanjian in the PACE had been previously discussed at the board of Heritage party and received its approval.

21. NIKOL PASHINYAN COMES TO PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

Chief editor of the "Haykakan Zhamanak" daily Nikol Pashinyan, who is wanted from March 2 2008, has willingly came to the Armenian chief prosecutor's office.

Press secretary of the prosecutor's office Sona Truzyan told Armenpress that he was arrested by the officials of the Kentron division and moved to "Yerevan-Kentron" criminal-executive establishment.

According to the June 19 decision of the Armenian parliament on declaring amnesty, in case wanted people come willingly by July 31 the amnesty will be spread on them too.



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BUSINESS

22. ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE CREDITS OF 44 MILLION DOLLARS TO THREE BIG ENTERPRISES IN MINING INDUSTRY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

Within the framework of its anticrisis measures, the Armenian government will provide credits of 44 million USD to three big enterprises in mining industry - Armenian Molybdenum Production and the copper and molybdenum enterprises in Zangezur and Agarak. RA Minister of Finance Tigran Davtian said at the June 26 sitting of the government held in Syunik marz that in this way the government will promote the mining industry and encourage the operation of companies having great export potential.

According to the minister, Armenian Molybdenum Production and the Zangezur copper and molybdenum enterprise will receive 15 million USD each, while the Agarak enterprise will be given 14 million USD, with a repayment period of 4-5 years. The Ministry of Finance will sign security agreements with these companies, and their production spaces and the equipment to be purchased with credits are given as a security.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said that these are quite considerable sums and will be allocated by the Russian side. In his opinion, this will create activity in the life of Syunik marz (province) and give impetus to the work of the indicated enterprises, helping them overcome the temporary difficulties due to the crisis.

According to the prime minister, the Armenian commercial banks cannot give large amounts of credits as they are not capitalized to such a degree, and for that reason considerable credits are provided by the state. He attached importance to public control of this process.

23. ARMENTEL TRIES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF ITS SERVICES BY OPENING NEW OFFICES [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

ArmenTel company opened its 60th sale and service office near Republic Square in Yerevan on June 26. The opening ceremony was attended by the deputy mayor of Yerevan Taron Margarian and the famous jazz musician Levon Malkhasian who became the first customer of the new office. By the way, another office opened in Mashtots Avenue on the same day.

ArmenTel's Director General Igor Klimko said the company opened 8 new offices in Armenia, including 4 ones in Yerevan, in the past month.

In his words, the company has developed a special program of improving the quality of its services and bringing them into line with European standards. He said that the good-looking employees of the new office have taken 3-week courses on customer services at Beeline University.

In response to NT correspondent's question, I. Klimko replied that the opening of a new office in the immediate vicinity of VivaCell company's office does not pursue any special goal. When he was asked what other steps (in addition to raising the quality of services) the company will take to withstand the growing competition in the sector, I. Klimko declared that the quality of ArmenTel's Services is today higher than the quality of services provided by VivaCell and their tariffs are competitive. As regards the entrance of the new operator in Armenian market in the autumn, ArmenTel will wait for the new operator's offers and only after that it will consider its own steps.

24. STARTING FROM JUNE 29 ARMSWISSBANK TO CONTINUE ITS ACTIVITIES IN NEWLY-BUILT BUILDING [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

Starting from June 29, ArmSwissBank CJSC will continue its activities in a newly-built building at 10 V. Sargsyan Street in Yerevan. The bank hopes that in this building, the customers will have most comfortable conditions for using the bank services with the help of modern high-quality equipment.

25. ARMENIAN-MEXICAN WORKING GROUP SET UP IN THE U.S. [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

At the June 25 luncheon-reception in Los Angeles, Armenian Consul in L.A. Grigor Hovhannisian and Mexican Consul in L.A. Juan Marcos Gutierrez-Gonzalez announced the creation of an Armenian-Mexican Working Group.

The newly-created working group, whose members were presented at the luncheon, will coordinate cooperation programs of the two communities in order to establish dialog between the Armenian and Mexican communities and solve jointly the problems faced by them.



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The Armenian members of the group are: Maria Mihranian (health care), Shahe Mazpanian (business sector) and Patil Aboshian-Gasparian (education and culture).

Azbarez daily reported that the reception was organized by the commission, whose honorary chairman is Congressman Adam Schiff. The commission is also composed of the two consuls, Los Angeles District Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Alberto Alvarado, and the representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Armenian Americans Shahe Mazpanian.

More than 200 Armenian and Mexican businessmen and public figures came to listen to the speech of Mexican Ambassador to the U.S Arturo Sarukhan who is of Armenian descent. His biography was presented by Alberto Alvarado. According to him, the parents of Arturo Sarukhan's father were Armenian Genocide survivors who reached Mexico on their way to Canada and decided to settle there.

At the beginning of his speech the Mexican ambassador used the word "genocide". However, later when responding to a question of "Hay Kyank" weekly's editor Apo Japarian, he said that this definition is his personal opinion and does not represent Mexico's official position on this issue. He added that the truth can overcome everything, liberating even those who want to hide it.

In his speech the ambassador mainly focused on the current state of Mexico-U.S. relations, expressing his opinions and speaking about the ways to improve these relations.

Arturo Sarukhan was appointed the ambassador to the U.S. by Mexican President Felipe Calderon in 2007.

26. REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE OF SME DNC OF ARMENIA OPENS IN KAPAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

After the Armenian government's session held on June 26 in Kapan - the regional center of Syunik marz (province), the opening ceremony of the representative office of the Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Center (SME DNC) of Armenia took place with the participation of Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan. The program was carried out with the support of the OSCE Program Implementation Office in Syunik marz.

"The assistance to small and medium entrepreneurship is a priority of the economic policy conducted by the government. The strengthening of the SME assistance system is of key importance in terms of promoting the economic development in the given region and overcoming the consequences of the global crisis at the local level," T. Sargsyan stated.

Head of the OSCE Yerevan Office Sergey Kapinos said that one of the major goals of the representative office is to encourage the sustainable development of this remote marz.

According to Executive Director of the SME DNC Ishkhan Karapetian, the newly-opened representative office will help implement programs on technical and financial assistance, provide assistance to startup businessmen and contribute to the implementation of programs by local small and medium enterprises.

27. SYRIAN, CZECH, RUSSIAN BUSINESSMEN INTERESTED IN EXPORT OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FROM ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

After the business forum held within the frameworks of Syrian President Bashar al Asad's visit to Armenia (June 17-18) the Syrian businessmen displayed interest in export of construction materials from Armenia. Chief Director of Armenian Development Agency Robert Harutyunian told Armenpress that in Syria there is especially a demand for cement. This state will also be used as a transit state to the African market.

The European states are also interested in the purchase of construction materials. R. Harutyunian informed that a project of export of construction materials from Armenia is also being discussed with the Czech Republic. The Czech constructors show interest in exporting especially the Armenian stones – basalt, travertine, tuff.

In the Russian Kaliningrad province there is an interest towards the decorative facing stones. R. Harutyunian considers it interesting that in Kaliningrad the constructors got interested in the four types of stones which were used during the construction of Armenian Culture House.

Chief Director of Armenian Development Agency noted that each proposal results in the necessity of market study and we must definitely know how the product must reach the other state and how much will it cost, whether it will be compatible or not. The issue of transportation calculation must be solved.



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As a result of the crisis the construction and house building sphere has greatly suffered and according to R. Harutyunian it somehow froze the already reached agreements with Iran on the construction material export.

28. PROSPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF ARMENIAN-GREEK BUSINESS COOPERATION DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

Today an Armenian-Greek business forum was held with the participation of the Greek delegation which has arrived in Armenia. The Greek delegation involves 17 businessmen of production, trade, textile, jewelry, security systems, agriculture and tourism who discussed the new ways of cooperation, possible investment projects, as well as opportunities to mutually present the personal products and occupy new markets.

Head of the Armenian Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen Arsen Ghazarian told journalists that the conference has two constitutive. First one of them is the "Erasmus Mundus" educational project within the frameworks of which training of Armenian business and middle circle managers is being implemented in different Greek enterprises. The second one is the development of business cooperation.

According to A. Ghazarian, as a result of the conferences preceding this meeting concrete agreements have been reached and a number of new undertakings were conducted as well as "certain hopes of increase of the limited volumes of Armenian-Greek commodity circulation".

The Armenian-Greek commodity circulation in 2008 reached 15-20 million USD. "This year no expectation for great sums is possible in the conditions of the economic crisis but it is the best time to put the bases for the collaborative activity during the upcoming years," he said also expressing hope that this arena will be efficient. According to A. Ghazarian the commodity circulation between Armenia and Greece is possible to increase by 100-150 million USD.

Among the Greek companies referring particularly to the activity of "OTE" company, A. Ghazarian noted that it had a very successful business plan "it used the Armenian communication in a monopole position for 10 years, then it prepared a splendid business package and re-sold it quite successfully having a super profit," he said.

A. Ghazarian does not consider it accidental that today the managers of "OTE" company work with French "Orange" company which is going to launch activity in Armenia "that's to say the market is competitive and remains to be attractive."

29. EBRD AND "ELITE GROUP" COMPANY TO SIGN A CONTRACT ON MEDIUM-TERM LOANS [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and "Elite Group" company will sign a contract on medium-term loans on July 1 in the Armenian National Gallery.

"Elite Group" company, which is considered to be a top company in reconstruction sphere, will be provided 5,5 million USD loan and a grant of 130 000 Euros for encouragement of the innovations in the sphere of energy savings.

An official from the "Elite Group" told Armenpress that the regional director of EBRD Paul Henry Forstier will arrive in Yerevan with the representative staff to sign the contract.

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, government members, as well as business representatives will take part in the event.

"Elite Group's" cooperation with EBRD has a history of over a year. The bank experts have carried out a complex examination of the organization's activity, and though the construction sphere is considered to be very risky in crisis conditions, EBRD has decided to provide loan to the Armenian Company "Elite Group".

30. ARDSHININVESTBANK JOINS INTEL EXPRESS SYSTEM [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

Starting from June 29, customers can receive and send money at all the branches of Ardshininvestbank through the Intel Express international payment system. The permission to join the system was granted to the bank by the Central Bank of Armenia.

According to a report submitted to NT, joining the Intel Express system provides Ardshininvestbank with the opportunity to make the money transfer process most efficient and offer its customers fast money transfer services to more European countries, by including new service points.

The Acting Chairman of Ardshininvestbank Board Gurgen Harutyunian said that the Intel Express system has been introduced at all the branches of their bank.



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31. ACCORDING TO RUSSIAN ACADEMICIAN, ARMENIA NEEDS 10 SCIENTISTS AND TWO MILLION DOLLARS TO BECOME A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY IN 5 YEARS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

Innovation economy is the only way out of the global crisis. The scientists participating in the international conference "The Innovation Way of the Development of Cooperating Countries: The Strategies and Prospects" came to this conclusion.

The conference opened on June 29. Among its organizers are the RA National Academy of Sciences (NAS), Yerevan Architectural and Construction Institute, "Globelix R" Innovation Academy scientific research institute (Russia) and Saratov State Technical University.

"Our purpose is to outline the conditions for developing innovation economy in Armenia and other CIS countries. New conditions require new approaches, and we can achieve that through successful cooperation," President of the RA NAS Radik Martirosian stated.

In the words of Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences Sergei Glazev, Armenia needs ten scientists and two million dollars to become a prosperous country in 5 years. He presented this anticrisis recipe for Armenia when giving his report.

As a long-term direction, he indicated the complex development of atomic industry on the basis of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant. In his opinion, the atomic industry is now developing in only one direction: generation of power.

He pointed out the funding of science at higher educational institutions with the aim of engaging young experts as another long-term direction.

Along with the creation of national innovation systems, the mechanisms of the formation of interstate innovation systems were discussed as well, which is a way of overcoming the global crisis, the scientists said.

According to the press service of the RA NAS, it was decided to organize an enlarged conference on innovation economy so that all CIS countries could participate in it.

32. ON THE DECISION OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATORY COMMISSION "ARMENTEL" FINED BY 8 MILLION DRAMS [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

During today's session the Public Service Regulatory Commission made a decision to fine "ArmenTel" company with 8 million drams.

According to the order of providing of earth voice services through public electronic communication nets "ArmenTel" must give corresponding permission to the licensed people according to which the companies must provide voice services in the republic.

The Commission made researches and found out that "ArmenTel" has not properly committed the responsibilities set by the order of providing earth voice services. As a result of studies and additional clarifications provided by "ArmenTel" it has been found out that the company has violated the law provisions against "Tavros" and "Global online" companies for which punitive measures have been decided to be imposed against "ArmenTel" of a sum of 2 million drams for each company and the as much additional penalty of overall 8 million drams.

33. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CARRIED WITH EUROPEAN AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANKS TO MAKE INVESTMENTS IN YEREVAN METROPOLITAN [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

The board of the Yerevan Metropolitan after Karen Demirchian conducts negotiations with the European Bank aimed at getting loans of 15 mln. Euros. Today at the press-conference director of the Metropolitan Paylak Yayloyan said that the contract with the European Bank is intended to be signed in autumn. The above mentioned sum of money will be used for constructing conduits in metropolitan's stations and for applying new systems of energy savings.

Yayloyan said that the Yerevan Municipality carries negotiations with the Asian Development Bank as well to finance the construction of the two new stations leading to the Ajapnyak community, as well as the construction of the new underground passage leading to the "Yeritasardakan" station. "We have a great wish to begin these works from 2010", - P. Yayloyan noted.



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DIASPORA

34. RA MINISTER OF DIASPORA TO TAKE PART IN 10TH ARMENIAN MEDICAL WORLD CONGRESS IN NEW YORK [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian will take part in the 10th Armenian Medical World Congress in New York Rockefeller center on July 1-4. According to the RA Ministry of Diaspora, H. Hakobian will make a speech on the topic of Armenia and Diaspora at the final plenary sitting dedicated to discussion of the success in the sphere of Armenian health. After her speech the participants of the conference will discuss the problems of the health sphere and quality of education in the sphere in Armenia.

According to the hayernaysor.am electronic newspaper, the organizer of the 10th Armenian Medical World Congress is the Armenian American Health Professional Organization-AAHPO (www.aahpo.org). It was founded in 1954 by Armenian doctors Nabet Kasabian, Khoren Nalbandian and John Nersisian. AAHPO supports health professionals of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut including nurses, dietologists, dentists and doctors. The aims of the organization are rise of the healthcare awareness in Armenian communities and in Armenia, improvement of disease prevention and diagnosis, provision of medical support.

RA Minister of Health Harutyun Kushkian will give a report on the subject The Health in Armenia at the final plenary sitting of the 10th Armenian Medical World Congress on July 2. The Minister of Health of Great Britain Lord Ara Darzi (the theme - The robotized operation), USA Congressman Frank Pallone (the theme - The legal problems of the health reforms outlined by USA Congress) are among the speakers of the Congress.

The themes of the plenary sitting also concern reforms and innovations of the health sphere in USA, Armenia and UK. Seminars concerning different spheres of health will be also held within the framework of the 10th Armenian Medical World Congress.

35. USA REPORTER CALLS FOR SETTING FREE SILVA HARUTYUNIAN ARRESTED IN IRAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

USA reporter Roxsanna Saberi called Iranian authorities for setting free worker of IREX NGO Silva Harutyunian who was arrested in Tehran a year ago. According to the PanArmenian.net, at the press conference of Silva Harutyunian's defence in Paris Saberi declared that the Iranian authorities keep Harutyunian under arrest illegally.

"I know that Silva is not guilty, I have seen the court's finding and the "accusatory documents," the director of International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran Khadi Haemi declared at the press conference.

36. ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OF SYRIA TO BE A NATURAL BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO FRIENDLY PEOPLES [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

At the June 29 meeting of Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia Hovik Abrahamian and Minister of Culture of Syria Riyad Naasan Agha the interlocuters attached importance to the role of the Armenian community of Syria in the issue of deepening cooperation between the two countries as it may serve as a natural bridge between the two friendly peoples. The sides especially emphasized the necessity of promoting bilateral cooperation in the sphere of culture owing to which it will be possible to further strengthen the bases of the Armenian-Syrian relations.

According to the report of the RA NA Public Relations Department, H. Abrahamian expressed his satisfaction on the occasion of activation of the Armenian-Syrian contacts that has been recorded recently. He attached importance to holding of days of the Syrian culture in Armenia as a peculiar manifestation of the bilateral cooperation.

37. ORGANIZATIONS OF ARMENIAN COMMUNITY IN FRANCE AND GREEK AND CYPRIAN COMMUNITIES IN MARSEILLE SIGN JOINT STATEMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

The Council on Coordination of Armenian Organizations in France (CCAF- Le Conseil de coordination des organisations arméniennes de France), the Cyprian community of France (Communauté chypriote de France), the Union of Greeks of Marseille region (Union hellénique de Marseille at de la Région) and the Greek community of Marseille (Communauté grecque de Marseille) signed a statement, in



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which they condemn the envisaged arrival of a Turkish ship in Marseille from the city of Foca (Turkey) - the former Greek city of Phocee, within the framework of Year of Turkey to be celebrated in France.

The point is that on the same day 2,600 years ago a ship from the above mentioned Greek city was moored to the area of the present-day Marseille and its passengers founded the city of Marseille, hayernaysor.am reported, referring to Nouvelles d'Armenie monthly published in France. The statement says that the Turks have no right to follow the route taken by the Greeks because it was not them that founded the city of Marseille 2,600 years ago after having traveled on that route. According to the statement, to receive the Turkish ship in Marseille within the framework of Year of Turkey in France means to consign to oblivion all those Armenians who arrived in Marseille by ship after surviving the Armenian Genocide and also to forget the fact that Turkey occupied part of Cyprus in 1974.

It is expected that the ship with Turkish participants in the events of Year of Turkey will leave Foca on July 1 when these events will start.

38. 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT VARTANANTS CHURCH IN NEW JERSEY MARKED IN CONGRESS [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

Democrat Congressman of the United States of America Steve Rathman at the House of Representatives marked the 50th anniversary of the Saint Vartanants Church of New Jersey on June 3. He made a special note on this occasion in the Congress archives, mentioning among the congratulation words that the church, with its seminaries and different organizations, remains a "lighthouse" for the Armenians of New Jersey.

According to Asbarez, pastor of the church Hovnan Bozoian welcomed Rathman's this step on behalf of the Church Trusteeship.

Steve Rathman since 1997 has been representing at the Congress the ninth electoral district of New Jersey where the district of Bergen is.

ARTS

39. MINAS AVETISIAN'S PICTURES TO BE EXHIBITED IN ITALY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

The pictures of Armenian artist Minas Avetisian will be presented to the Italian society in 2010. Professor of the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples Francesco Gallo told at the press conference on June 26 that About 100 Works exhibition of Minas Avetisian's pictures will enter Italy through Roman gates and will continue into Naples, Venice, Florence. According to him, there is no concrete date of the opening the exhibition, as the exhibition of Minas' works is now being prepared in Moscow. "The Italian society should touch the Armenian art with its hand. That is why we chose Minas to present this country's art with the help of him", noted Mr. Gallo.

F. Gallo, as a reporter, will do scientific work besides presenting the cultural values, as a result of which different pages of M. Avetisian's life, some materials describing the tragic end of his life and some parts of his writings will be recruited. The idea of the exhibition was suggested to F. Gallo by the representative of the Minas Avetisian Fund in Florence Vighen Avetis. The program is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of Armenia.

Francesco Gallo is concerned with the fact that very few canvases of Minas are shown at museums, the exposition and order of the pictures is very poor, that's why the pictures lose their power and a visitor cannot have a clear view of the painter. F. Gallo noticed that living in a difficult period M. Avetisian does not raise political problems and hard social conditions in his canvases, there is only art. "M. Avetisian in his pictures gives priority to independence, there is free spirit and views. That is why the value of his art continued to grow after him." According to him, the greatest value of Minas is that he presents historic culture with today's eyes and spirit.

40. RETROSPECTIVE SHOW OF HARUTYUN KHACHATRYAN'S FILMS TAKE PLACE IN MOSCOW [Azg, 06/29/09]

A retrospective show of Golden Apricot International Film Festival Director, filmmaker Harutyun Khachatryan's 7 films ("Border", "Return of the Poet", "The Documentalist", "Kond", "The Last Station", "Return to the Promised Land", "White Town") took place within the framework of 31st Moscow International Film Festival held on June 19-28.



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Andrey Plakhov, the Chairman of the International Federation of Film Critics wrote in the catalogue of Moscow festival: "Harutyun Khachatryan's films present pure types of cinematography by which the director can express sharp and fierce contradictions of the modern world."

It should be mentioned that among the Armenian directors, retrospective show of only Sergey Parajanov's and Artavazd Peleshian's films has been organized up to now at any film festival. And organizers of Moscow Film Festival expressed a wish to involve H. Khachatryan's films as well, in the program of retrospective shows of such world famous directors as Jerzy Skolimowski, Marco Ferreri.

41. "ReAnimania-2009" FIRST INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ANIMATION FILMS TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

"ReAnimania-2009" first international festival of animation films will be held October 3-6 in Yerevan. During today's press conference the Establisher-Director of the festival Vrezh Kasouni said that the idea of organization of a festival of animation films arouse 3 years ago which chiefly aimed at contribution to the animation film arena in Armenia, formation and promotion of cooperation between individual animators and studios. It will also create an opportunity to enhance the regional animation cooperation based on the world's leading European, Russian and American animation schools.

The Festival authorities have signed cooperation agreements with the French Ansi international animation festival also reaching an agreement to present the best films of the French festival which has been functioning for already a few decades.

Responsible for "ReAnimania-2009" project Artsvi Bakhchinian informed that for the first time contest and non-contest projects, a project of children's films, back glance shows including the Italian animator Bruno Bozzetto's films as well as a jubilee event dedicated to the 70th anniversary of creation of Armenian animation films are intended.

Applications of participation in the project started to be submitted from June 20 and will last by August 10. By now 15 applications have been got from the foreign and three applications from Armenian animators and studios.

The festival is sponsored by the Armenian Culture Ministry, Armenian National Cinema Center and "Shushi rebirth" foundation. Partners of the festival are the Embassies of France, Italy, Germany, Brazil to Armenia, the "Golden Apricot" international film festival and "Moscow" cinema.

42. SYRIAN CULTURAL DAYS KICK OFF IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

Syrian Culture Days kicked off today in the Armenian National Gallery and will last till July 5. Armenian Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan noted that the Syrian Culture Days in Armenia prove that it is the culture that bridges the relations of many centuries of the two countries. "Syria is one of the closest friend countries of Armenia, our Armenian community lives there in most privileged conditions, as there is a special attitude towards Armenians. I would be very glad if suchlike normal relations were developed with all the countries", - Armenian Minister underscored. Afterwards H. Poghosyan said that within the framework of Syrian delegation's visit projects on screening an Armenian-Syrian joint film, as well as projects on publishing, cultural heritage preservation, culture, etc. will be discussed.

Cultural Minister of Syrian Arab Republic Riad Naasa Agha said that he is proud that many people of Armenian nationality are among the citizens of Syria and comprise the important part of the Syrian society. He expressed hope that the cultural days will strengthen those relations even more. Syrian Culture Minister expressed confidence that President Bashar al Asad's visit to Armenia opened a new page in the relations of the two countries.

"The relations between Syrian and Armenian nations have a history of over 2000 years. Many times these nations have been subjected to the same history.

When the 20-th century came with its disasters and wars, wounds of Armenian people fused with the wounds of Syrian nation and we became one family", - Riad Naasa Agha said.

Syrian painting, Arabic manuscripts and photography, as well as folk arts are presented in the National Gallery. Armenian society will have the opportunity of getting acquainted with Syrian film art for 5 days.

In the frameworks of the cultural days meeting-lectures will be conducted as well; it is intended to conduct a lecture on the theme of "Armenian-Syrian relations" in the Eastern Science Institute of Armenian National Academy, as well as a lecture on the theme of "Cultural peculiarities of Armenian and Arabic writers" - in Armenian Writer's Union. The "Julnar" and "Bridges" ethnographic ensembles ethnographic will perform in Yerevan's "Arno Babajanyan" concert hall, Goris's Dramatic Theatre after V.



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Vagarshyan, Yeghegnadzor's Culture House and Vanadzor's National Dramatic Theatre after Hovhannes Abelyan.

The delegation of the Syrian minister consisted of Deputy Minister Muhamad Turki al-Sayed, director of Syrian archeological sciences and museums Bassam Jamus, coordinator of cultural days Nazih Huri, conductor of Syrian National Philharmonic Orchestra Misak Paghputaryan.

43. NON-CONTEST "A DAY IN EUROPE" PROGRAM TO BE HELD JULY 14-17 WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF "GOLDEN APRICOT" 6TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

Within the frameworks of "Golden Apricot" sixth international film festival "A day in Europe" non-contest program will be held July 14-17 which gives an opportunity to dedicate one day to showing best European films.

During today's press conference the coordinator of the art programs of the festival Susanna Harutyunian said that the festival cooperates with the embassies of Germany, France, Netherlands, Poland and USA to Armenia with the support and mediation of which shows of European films are organized.

This year the "Golden Apricot" for the first time cooperates with the Japanese film fund as a result of which a back-glance show of the world's famous Japanese director Kohei Oguri's films will be held in Yerevan.

According to the project coordinator Vrezh Kasouni this year the program will open with the Lebanese "Karamel" film. Interesting short films will also be shown from the film fund of the United Arab Emirates of the last 10 years.

Within the frameworks of the European range four German films will be presented.

44. RETROSPECTIVES OF FILMS DIRECTED BY JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI AND KOHEI OGURI TO BE ORGANIZED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GOLDEN APRICOT FILM FESTIVAL [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

One Day in Europe extra-contest program will be held this year as well within the framework of the Golden Apricot (Voske Tsiran) 6th International Film Festival to be held between July 12 to 19 in Yerevan. Susanna Haroutiunian, the Art Director of the film festival, at the June 30 press conference, reported that a day of French cinema will be held on July 14, day of Polish cinema on July 16 and day of German cinema on July 17.

Besides, retrospectives of films directed by world-famous directors Jerzy Skolimowski and Kohei Oguri will also take place.

And films of Egyptian, Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian directors will be shown every evening within the framework of the Arab Nights program.

45. COOPERATION MEMORANDUM TO BE SIGNED BETWEEN ARMENIAN AND SYRIAN WRITERS' UNIONS [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

Within the frameworks of Syrian culture days held in Armenia, today the Armenian Culture Ministry and the Embassy of Syria to Armenia organized a meeting with a group of Syrian art and literature figures who are in Yerevan.

Addressing to the invited guests the head of the Armenian Writers' Union Levon Ananyan stressed the importance of the circumstance the visit of the arts figures was preceded by the visit of Syrian President Bashar al Asad to Armenia which is an important event in the Armenian Syrian relations.

L. Ananyan did not consider it accidental that Syria has a community of Armenian writers the literary world of which is rather active and the members of which maintain close links with the literature of the homeland and assist mutual enrichment of the literature of the two states.

In his turn the Deputy Syrian Culture Minister Mohammad torky as-Sayed welcomed the Armenian writers conveying the greetings of the Syrian Writers' Union who was absent at the meeting.

"The fact that our delegation also involves Armenian authors proves that we evaluate the Armenians of our state and their activity," he said also stressing the importance of the Syrian President Bashar al Asad's visit to Armenia.



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RELIGION

46. ARCHBISHOP NERSES POZAPALIAN DIES [Azg, 06/29/09]

His Grace Archbishop Nerses Pozapalian, a devoted and worthy priest of the Armenian Apostolic Church, passed away at Nairi Medical Center on the morning of June 27. He was 72.

To recap, on February 18 Archbishop Pozapalian was attacked by an unknown person in his monastic room at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, as a result of which he received a severe injury and was taken to hospital in an unconscious state. According to the Information System of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, from that incident till his death, Archbishop Pozapalian was under a good care of the center's doctors.

A divine liturgy will be served at Holy Marturs Church (Kotayk marz) built by Archbishop Pozapalian, on June 30. His funeral will take place in the church yard.

Archbishop Nerses Pozapalian was born in 1937 in Gregkhan, Cilicia. In 1939 his family moved to Beirut where he received his primary education. In 1957 the Pozapalians came to homeland where he continued his studies at the Gevorgian Theological Seminary of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

In 1961 Pozapalian was ordained as a celibate priest by the Catholicos of All Armenians Vazgen I.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his religious activities, Holy Marturs Church in memory of his parents Grigor and Makruhi Pozapalians was built in the village of Teghenik in Kotayk marz in 2000-2003. His Holiness the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II awarded a Surb Grigor Lusavorich Order to him on the same occasion.

Archbishop Nerses Pozapalian published 10 books of poetry and sermons and was a lecturer at the Gevorgian Theological Seminary in Etchmiadzin.

In 2000-2006 Archbishop Pozapalian was Director of the Publishing Department of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

47. CATHOLICOS OF CILICIA ARAM A RECEIVES THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF POPE BENEDICT XVI [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

Catholicos of Cilicia Aram A received today the personal representative of the Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal of Paris Andren Vincet-Truan in Anthelias. The Cardinal visited Anthelias shortly after the meeting with the Lebanese President.

An official from Anthelias told Armenpress that during the meeting refer has been made to the situation in Lebanon and the latest developments taken place in the Middle East. The close relations between the Vatican and the Armenian Church have been touched upon and issues of inter-church cooperation have been discussed.

Refer has been made to the last year's Vatican visit of His Holiness during which new cooperation prospects have been outlined by the two Holy Sees.

48. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MOTHER SEE WILL IN ASTANA TAKE PART IN THE THIRD SUMMIT OF LEADERS OF WORLD AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

Third summit of the leaders of World and Traditional religions will take place July 1-2 in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan in which representatives of different churches and religious organizations will take part.

An official from the inter-church relations department of the Mother See told Armenpress that during the summit "The role of religious leaders in the establishment of peace based on tolerance, mutual respect and cooperation", "Universal and spiritual values, world ethics", "Dialogue and cooperation" and "Consensus during the crisis" themes will be discussed.

The blessing note of the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II directed towards the participants will also be presented.

In the mentioned summit the Mother See Holy Etchmiadzin will be presented by the responsible of the Mother See for the inter-church relations Archbishop Yeznik Petrosyan, leader of the Gegharkunik Diocese Archbishop Markos Hovhannisian and Tatul Hambardzumian.



SOCIAL

49. ARMENIAN MEDICAL WORLD CONGRESS TO BE HELD ON JULY 1-4 IN NEW YORK [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

Armenian Medical World Congress will be held on the initiative of Armenian-American Health Professionals Organization at New York Hilton hotel on July 1-4. The Azg daily reported this citing the Armenian Mirror-Spectator weekly.

A great number of prominent Armenian doctors will be present and will take part in the proceedings of the congress. The inventor of the MRI and world-famous Dr. Raymond Damadian, the minister of Health of Great Britain Lord Ara Darzi, the professor of University of California San Diego Dr. Hagop Akiskal, the leading surgeon of New York's Lenox Hill hospital Dr. Vicken Pamoukian, the Health Ministers of Armenia and Karabakh, the Minister of Diaspora, the Head of Yerevan State Medical University, the Director of Medical library and others will be among them.

Plenary sessions on comparative health care system, innovations in pharmacy, and such sub-special themes as dentistry, anesthesia, nursing, etc are scheduled.

Those present will honor Lord Ara Darzi and father and son Nazar and Levon Nazarians during the gala event at the Hilton hotel on the last day of the conference.

50. DEPUTY HEAD OF YEREVAN-KENTRON PENITENTIARY CHARGED WITH ABUSING AUTHORITY [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/29/09]

The charge brought against the deputy head of Yerevan-Kentron penitentiary A. Muradian was substantiated in the criminal case investigated by the Special Investigation Service of Armenia. The prosecutor's office approved the indictment and the case was sent to court.

A criminal case had been opened in connection with the fact that on April 1, 2009, A. Aghababian convicted of attempted murder broke out of Yerevan-Kentron penitentiary. The investigation into this case revealed that the deputy head of the penitentiary A. Muradian abused his authority, thus committing the crime envisaged by Article 309 of the RA Criminal Code.

In particular, according to the evidence obtained by investigators, A. Muradian violated the requirements of Article 24 of the RA Law on Keeping Arrested and Imprisoned Persons and Chapter 11 of the RA Criminal Enforcement Service's Regulations on Keeping Prisoners in Places of Detention and Correctional Facilities: he abused his authority established by law by regularly taking the prisoner Arshak Aghababian convicted of a particularly grave crime out of his cell (without Aghababian's written consent and a written decision of the penitentiary head and without making any records) and involving him in work of economic nature at the penitentiary. On April 1, 2009, at about 2:30 pm, Aghababian was once again taken out of his cell and told to unload foodstuffs from a truck and carry them to the penitentiary storehouse. During this work, the prisoner was not under control, as a result of which he managed to climb out of a storehouse window to Nalbandian Street and escape.

According to the press service of the RA Prosecutor General's Office, based on the obtained evidence, A. Muradian was charged under Article 309 Part 1 of RA Criminal Code. The criminal case has been sent to the court of general jurisdiction of Yerevan's Kentron and Nork-Marsh communities for examination.

51. "SUN" OPEN FESTIVAL OF ALPINISM TO BE HELD JULY 1-30 IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

"Sun" open festival of alpinism will kick off July 1 in Armenia for the first time and will last by end July, the Head of the Tourism and Territorial Economic Development Department of Armenian Economy Ministry Mekhak Apresian and the organizer of "Sun" open festival of alpinism, head of the "Up The Rocks" club Mkhitar Mkhitarian informed.

According to them the festival of alpinism which is widely spread in the world will combine young people from different states in Armenia turning Armenia into a tourism center not only for the tourists seeking for a beautiful nature and aged culture but also the lovers of active and healthy rest.

The key festival objectives are to develop the alpinism in Armenia and with it foster the tourism by involving the alpinism addicts. The festival will also give an opportunity to watch the ascent of the professional alpinists and to learn the main techniques of alpinism. At the end of the festival the most active and interested young people will be involved in the "Up The Rocks" club and have an opportunity to continue the trainings in mastering in this sphere.



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Different alpinism places are involved in the festival agenda.

The group of alpinists of the festival will consist of professionals from different states and the group of beginners – from the local youth who will wish to join the camp.

The open festival is being organized by the Armenian Economy Ministry, Armenian alpinism Federation and “Spitak” rescue center.

52. NEW YEREVAN-ROME FLIGHT TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM JULY 15 [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

Armenian national air-transporter “Armavia” Airlines will from July 15 implement Yerevan-Rome direct flight. Press secretary of the company Nana Avetisian told Armenpress that Rome is the third European city after Zurich and Berlin with which “Armavia” implements a new flight during this year. The flight will yet be implemented once a week on Wednesdays.

N. Avetisian informed that during the summer season “Armavia” restarts the Yerevan-Marseilles flight. From July 7 Yerevan-Batumi direct flight will also be conducted.

53. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan will mark his birthday anniversary with members of his family and close friends, spokesman for the president said, informing that the president has received various congratulatory messages and kind wishes from state and political figures of foreign countries, Armenia, Artsakh and Diaspora, from cultural figures, intellectuals and individuals.

54. THE RESULTS OF “EQUAL LABOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDICAPPED YOUTH” PROJECT PRESENTED [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

The handicapped people of the republic are not enough aware about their rights, said the executive director of the “Human Dignity and Peace” charity foundation Ruzanna Ter-Ghazarian during the presentation of the results of the “Equal Labor Opportunities for Handicapped Youth” project.

From January of the current year within the frameworks of the project works have been conducted with nearly 115 handicapped youth from Yerevan Shengavit, Malatia-Sebastia, Erebuni and Noubarashen communities. R. Ter-Ghazarian noted that many handicapped people are unaware of their labor rights and projects implemented by the state for them. Most of them are not even registered in the territorial employment center. Within the frameworks of the project works are also conducted with 60 employers selected from the mentioned communities. The studies have shown that in the inner regulatory law of their establishments the aspects about the handicapped people are absent.

Through a number of courses the foundation has supported the employers to involve aspects about the handicapped people in their inner regulatory laws. R. Ter-Ghazarian noted that during the latest period the attitude of the employers towards the issues of handicapped people has notably changed.

According to the studies conducted by the foundation from 60 employers 22 had handicapped workers. “This is a good indicator compared with our previous statistics, but is not sufficient, there is still much to be done in this direction. The increase of the awareness level of the employers is also a very important issue, as many of them are unaware of the privileges given to them in case of employing disabled people,” R. Ter-Ghazarian said.

From January this year within the frameworks of the project roundtable discussions and courses on “Obtaining of abilities of finding a job” theme have been organized. R. Ter-Ghazarian noted that the project is a short term, it ends at end July, but there is an intention to start a long-term project within the frameworks of which support will be provided to the handicapped people in finding a job.

55. 55 BOOKS DONATED TO THE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES OF NAS [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

The “Austrian Cultural Institutions” Organization donated today 55 books to the department of Iranian Studies of the Institute of Oriental Studies of NAS. They present Iranian history, art, as well as the historical and cultural relations with the neighbor countries in English, French, German, Italian and ancient Persian.

Chairman of Armenian National Academy Radik Martirosyan attached importance to that event underscoring that it is not just a donation of books, it is also a beginning of close cooperation with Armenian-Austrian scientific-educational institutions. “The books may be a great material for those who



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are interested in Iranian Studies. This donation will promote the development of science in Armenia”, - Radik Martirosyan noted.

Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of NAS Ruben Safrastyan said that the donated books are unique in Armenia. Especially the publications of the ancient Persian records are of great value. He noted that the books may serve as an important scientific material both for Armenian and foreign Oriental studiers, as well as for the scientists studying the history and the cultural interaction of the region.

Academician-Secretary of the departments of NAS Armenian studies and social sciences Vladimir Barkhudaryan said that Armenian and Austrian cultural relations have always been on a high level and this event will contribute to their development. He noted that there is an opinion that the existence of the computer pushes the books to the second plan, but the books present an enormous cultural heritage and are irreplaceable.

According to the member of the Council for “Austrian Cultural Institutions” organization Peter Schneider, Armenian-Austrian relations are on firm basis and will have an efficient continuation. “We will do our best to promote that cooperation”, - P. Schneider added.

The library of the Institute of Oriental Studies of NAS has 60 000 books.

56. PROGRAM ON ACADEMIC EXCHANGE TO BE CONTINUED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF “ERAZMUS MUNDUS” PROGRAM [ARMENPRESS, 06/30/09]

The regular consulting meeting of the partner universities of the “A window for Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan” program of the European Commission’s “Erazmus Mundus” foreign partnership kicks off today in Yerevan.

The coordinator of the program Tania Kapiki told Armenpress that the goal of the program is to organize experience exchange programs for students and professionals between the universities of different countries. 5 universities from Armenia are included in the project, including Armenian State University, Armenian State Economic and Agricultural University, as well as the universities of Gyumri and Gavar, and 3 universities – from Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Universities from Italy, Latvia, Bulgaria, Holland and France are included as well. Representatives of three groups may be involved in the project. In the first group are the students and employees from the universities included in the project, in the second group – representatives of any organization of the South Caucasian countries, in the third group – the refugees, people who are socially insecure or have physical problems. The universities of the countries of South Caucasus admit the students from the universities of European countries, and the contrary. The aim of this project, which kicked off in 2007, is educational and it serves as a bridge for the universities of European and Asian countries. Those who are included in the project, will get a scholarship in the period of their education as well.

Lately details on academic year of 2009-2010 will be discussed in Armenia, which will be presented to the public and will be placed in www.erasmusmundus5.teithe.gr web site.

57. FUND-RAISING MARATHON TO BE ORGANIZED FOR ACQUIRING ENTERTAINMENT CENTER FOR DISABLED YOUNG PEOPLE OF ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

A fund-raising marathon will be staged at Aram Khachatrian Concert Hall in Yerevan on July 8 within the framework of Our Right of Pastime program. The proceeds will go to the purchase of an entertainment center for disabled young people of Armenia.

The spouses of Armenia’s second and current presidents Bella Kocharian and Rita Sargsyan, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian, representatives of other ministries and more than 20 NGOs have been invited to the event.

In parallel with the fund-raising marathon, an exhibition-sale of handicrafts made by disabled persons and a concert of disabled and healthy young people will be held. At the conclusion of the event, Armenian stars will give a charity concert.

The marathon has been organized by We Will Make Our Village Prosperous and International Community of Human Rights NGOs. According to the organizers, the donations made during the fund-raising marathon will be transferred to ArmEconBank’s respective account which will be open in the future as well.



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58. 215 CONVICTS RELEASED FROM ARMENIAN PRISONS UNDER AMNESTY AS OF JUNE 25 [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

In accordance with the RA National Assembly's Decision of June 19 on Declaring an Amnesty, 215 convicts were released from prisons of RA Ministry of Justice as of June 25, NT correspondent was informed by spokesman for the Ministry's Criminal Enforcement Department Arsen Babayan on June 29.

According to him, 38 convicts were released from Nubarashen prison, 11 from Artik prison, 15 from Vanadzor prison, 5 from Goris prison, 53 from Erebuni prison, 19 from Sevan prison, one person from Yerevan-Kentron prison, 23 from Kosh prison, 24 from Vardashen prison, 7 from Hospital of Convicts, 5 and 3 persons respectively from women's and juveniles' units of Abovian prison, 2 from the open correctional facility, one person from Hrazdan prison, and 8 persons were released from Meghri prison.

59. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ENTITLED LONG-RANGE GOALS OF REFORMS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

The RA Ministry of Education and Science and the Bridge of Hope NGO organize in Yerevan an international conference entitled Long-Range Goals of Reforms of Special Education: New View, New Approaches, between July 1 to 2.

The guests arriving from Latvia, Serbia, Hungary, Czech Republic will discuss jointly with Armenian specialists problems and ways of reformation of special education during two days. More than 120 invited specialists will get acquainted with national reports of the participant countries, international organizations' experience, as well as with programs implemented by NGOs and their achievements.

According to the information provided to Noyan Tapan, thematic discussions in groups under the directorship of specialists of the sphere will also be organized during the conference.

The program is funded with a grant by the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation Armenia. The UN Children's Fund assisted organization of the international conference.

60. PUBLIC TELEVISION OF ARMENIA RECOGNIZED WINNER OF UNPLEASANT TV BROADCAST COMPETITION [NOYAN TAPAN, 06/30/09]

Among the 17 TV companies of Yerevan subjected to monitoring, the Public Television of Armenia (H1) was recognized the winner of the Unpleasant TV Broadcast competition. Head of the competition working group Narek Malian said this at the June 29 press conference. He mentioned that the competition results were determined according to the monitoring held in February-March.

In N. Malian's words, for the Public Television of Armenia to get rid of its shortcomings, a public boycott must be declared towards it, corresponding legislative initiatives must be presented. Besides, it is necessary that TV companies establish some moral norms to follow them in their work.

61. CHILDREN WITHOUT CARE UNDER THE LIMELIGHT IN SYUNIK [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

During the running year coordinated works have been conducted in the Armenian province of Syunik for ensuring the protection of rights of children without parents' care, women and their social protection.

According to the department of protection of children's rights of the governor's office, in 2009 5 children without parents' care have been registered in the province. About 107 children of insecure families visit Kapan's children's care and protection boarding institution.

About 216 children with one parent or without parents have been involved in the sponsorship program of Fund for Armenia's Relief.

62. WORKSHOP OF ITALIAN MACARONI ESTABLISHED IN TOGH SUB-REGION OF NKR'S HADROUT REGION [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

A workshop of Italian macaroni has been established in the Togh sub-region of the Hadrout region of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

The founder of the workshop Arthur Aghabekyan told Armenpress that it was possible to establish with the collaboration of few business friends. The installation of the "Andy Italia" equipment and experimental start has been implemented by the Italian specialists.



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The businessman said that the new workshop has today 8 employees and part of the raw is still being imported. During one working day up to 2 tons of macaroni are being produced.

63. PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATORY COMMISSION DENIES THE ACCUSATIONS OF THE OVERSIGHT CHAMBER [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

Armenian Public Service Regulatory Commission denies the yesterday's accusations of the Oversight Chamber according to which as a result of the studies a number of violations have been registered in the activity of the commission.

During the session of Public Service Regulatory Commission the Deputy Head of the Commission Nikolay Grigoryan noted that they deny the groundless accusations and assessments.

"The Commission expresses deep concern on the June 30 comments and accusations of the session of Oversight Chamber Council over the results of the studies conducted in the commission," N. Grigoryan said.

The Public Services Regulatory Commission states that during the upcoming days an official release will be issued aiming at presenting true data to the public on the results of studies conducted by the Oversight Chamber.

64. AS OF JUNE 30, 235 CONVICTED HAVE BEEN SET FREE [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

As of June 30, according to the NA June 19 decision on "Declaring amnesty" 235 imprisoned people have been set free from the criminal-executive establishments of the Armenian Justice Ministry.

Head of the Public relations department of the Criminal-Executive department of Armenian Justice Ministry Arsen Babayan told Armenpress that 44 convicted have been set free from the "Nubarashen" criminal-execution establishment, 16 – from "Artik" criminal-executive establishment, 17 convicted – from "Vanadzor", 5 convicted – from "Goris", 55 convicted – from the "Erebuni" criminal-executive establishment, 23 convicted – from "Sevan", 1 convicted – from the "Yerevan-Center" criminal-executive establishment, 23 convicted – from "Kosh", 24 convicted – from "Vardashen", 7 convicted – from "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, 2 convicted have been set free from the criminal execution establishment of open type, 2 – from "Hrazdan" and 8 convicted – from "Meghri" criminal-execution establishment.

65. HEAD OF THE ARMENIAN PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATION HAS A WORKING CONSULTATION ON THE ISSUES OF LAKE SEVAN [ARMENPRESS, 07/01/09]

Head of the Armenian President's Administration Karen Karapetian today had a working consultation with the members of the Commission for the issues of Lake Sevan established on the Armenian President's decree as well as with the heads of corresponding establishments.

Presidential Press Office told Armenpress that within the context of Sevan issues refer has also been made to the amended variant of the charter of "Sevan" National Park state non-trade organization which was presented by the Nature Protection Minister Aram Harutyunian. A concerned discussion has been launched during which proposals and remarks were sounded on the management issues of the "Sevan" National Park and oversight functions.

The participants of the consultation considered it necessary to make the issue of preservation of Sevan as a core subject in the implemented works.

Head of the President's administration stressed the importance of involvement of all the sides concerned with the Sevan issues and the coordinated activity. K. Karapetian considered the proper oversight over the whole Sevan basin, discovery of the issues which gathered during years and finding complex solutions to them as prior.

Head of the Commission for the Sevan Lake issues Vladimir Movsisian presented brief information on the activity of the commission noting that all the assignments given by the Armenian President are involved in the working projects and put into execution.



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