



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

AGBU NEWS

1. "ANDRANIK" SCOUT CAMP OPENS IN THE REPUBLIC FOR THE SECOND YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

"Andranik" scout camping is being held from July 13 in the republic organized by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

Deputy Head of the AGBU Armenian Representation Hovik Eordekian told Armenpress that the camping which will be held until August 24 is situated in the Lermontovo Village of the Lori Province. Nearly 200 scouts from Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, USA and Armenia take part in it.

According to H. Eordekian besides the organized educational works and talks the participants will also have an opportunity to walk around the sightseeing places of the homeland and get acquainted with the historical-cultural places of Armenia.

The camping in Armenia has been organized since 2008.

POLITICS

2. ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL OF ARMENIA OPENS [Azg, 07/13/09]

The solemn unveiling ceremony of the administrative building of the National Security Council of Armenia took place on July 10, in the address of Baghramian 24, Yerevan. Before it, the Council was placed in the Armenian President's residence. RA President Serzh Sargsyan participated in the ceremony.

NSC Secretary Artur Baghdasarian stated that the structure has had a serious role during the past year. Various issues, particularly, issues relating to activities of reviewing the RA defence strategy, cooperation with international structures, Armenia's chairing at the CSTO, political cooperation with the European Union, individual partnership with the NATO, Armenia-Turkey, Armenia-Iran relations, program of construction of a new nuclear energy block in the RA, working out of the most important conceptions for the country, national programs and strategies, foreign and internal policy were discussed at 10 meetings of the Council. The Council staff was founded. Baghdasarian stated that during this year the NSC established practical ties with corresponding structures of the CSTO member states, Near East and a number of European countries, memoranda on cooperation were signed with the Security Councils of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, memoranda on cooperation will be also signed in the future with the Security Councils of Italy, France, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries.

Council staff head Artashes Avoyan informed the journalists that the building construction was implemented with about 600 mln drams budget means. The Council will have 90 employees.

3. USA TO GIVE ARMENIA AID OF \$30 MILLION [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 07/13/09]

The Senate Appropriations Committee adopted the foreign aid bill of (FY) 2010. The latter envisages \$30 million aid for Armenia which is \$18 million less than the sum of the last fiscal year. According to the Azg daily, which cites the information of the Armenian Assembly of America, the bill also envisages \$22 million for Azerbaijan.

"The USA assistance contributes to the overcoming the blockade by Turkey and the AAA will continue its work in the Senate and House of Representatives to gain guarantees for allocating greater assistance to Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh," Bryan Ardouny said.

4. JAMES STEINBERGE: "ARMENIAN-TURKISH RECONCILIATION PROCESS TO ADVANCE IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY OTHER PROCESS" [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

The United States of America has always said that the Armenian-Turkish reconciliation process must advance irrespective of any other process, independently. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberge mentioned it at the press conference held at the end of the July 10 meeting with President of Armenia Serge Sargsian in Yerevan. "We are sure that the parties will move in that direction as well, as it



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is driven by both parties' interests to advance in that direction, we will encourage that the process advances independently, of course, we will welcome the parallel progress in the Nagorno Karabakh settlement," he said.

In the high-ranking official's words, the U.S. appreciates efforts of Armenia to advance in the process having a historic meaning and welcomes the steps which were taken to open a new chapter in the history of the region. Steiberge mentioned that there is a considerable progress in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group: "We impatiently wait for further steps in that direction, particularly for the coming meeting of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Moscow." The American delegation, before coming to Yerevan, met with President Aliyev in Baku: "Both parties have great desire to find a joint solution based on Madrid principles, statement of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairpersons and three Chairmen of the co-chairing countries to fix a progress at Moscow meeting. We feel that there is resoluteness to continue the progress, there is a constructive approach," J. Steinberge said.

The American diplomat also welcomed the Armenian authorities' statement on the irreversible character of the process of deepening the democratic reforms in Armenia. The U.S. also welcomes the Armenian authorities' decision to announce amnesty and encourages to continue that process. The U.S. is ready to assist the process of deepening the democratic reforms, economic development of Armenia, realizing that challenges of the time make the state of developing countries like Armenia especially difficult.

Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian in his turn mentioned that the United States, as one of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries, has serious contribution in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement. "We welcome the constructive efforts of the U.S. and other co-chairing countries in the process of outcome of this pivotal problem," he said. He mentioned that it was mentioned at the meeting with the RA President that Armenia will continue making efforts in the direction of peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, based on self-determination of nations, the territorial integrity and principles of non-use of force or non-use of threat of force. It was mentioned relating to the Armenian-Turkish relations that Armenia is ready to regulate relations and open the borders without any preconditions: "We wait for practical steps by Turkey," E. Nalbandian said.

It was fixed at the meeting that the Armenian-American relations passed an important way of development but there is a serious potential and bilateral readiness for widening them, and "we shall take practical steps in that direction," the Minister said. Different spheres of the agenda on the Armenian-American relations, this is the political dialogue, economic cooperation, programs of the United States of America on assisting development of Armenia and their widening, were touched upon during the meeting.

The Armenian Foreign Minister appreciated the OSCE Minsk Group U.S., French and Russian Chairpersons' statement addressed to the co-chairing countries, it is an additional assistance to the parties to make the positions closer. In his words, it is important that "what has been spoken about by Armenia for a long time is unequivocally said here: the Karabakh status must be defined by expression of the Karabakh people's will which must have a legal obliging power. It is important that uninterrupted land communication between Armenia and Karabakh is spoken about, it is important that security guarantees are spoken about. Those are the important elements about which Armenia many times stated as the most important basis for the Nagorno Karabakh problem settlement," Edward Nalbandian said.

5. NECESSITY OF COORDINATED ACTIVITY FOR STRENGTHENING OF ARMENIA-ARTSAKH-DIASPORA TRIUNITY DISCUSSED [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

Issues relating to consistent strengthening of the Armenia-Artsakh-Diaspora triunity, just settlement of the Artsakh problem and NKR social-economic development were discussed at NKR President Bako Sahakian's and Deputy Chair of the Ramkavar Azatakan Party Central Board Harutiun Arakelian's and Central Board member Karen Kakoyan's meeting. The interlocutors attached importance to the necessity of coordinated activity in that direction.

According to the information of the NKR President's staff, issues relating to the internal and foreign policy were discussed at the meeting.

6. NA FINISHES ACTIVITY OF SPECIAL SESSION IN THREE HOURS, WITH EXHAUSTING AGENDA [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

The draft On General Education and the package of amendments in a number of functioning laws, resulted from it were adopted in the second, then in the third reading and completely at the National Assembly's special meeting convened on the Armenian government's initiative on July 10.



According to it, the state policy principles in the sphere of general education system, the organization-legal and financial-economic bases are particularly defined. Bases of the right for education, compulsory general education and free secondary education fixed by the Constitution are also guaranteed.

As main and adjacent reporters mentioned, Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotian and member of the NA Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Issues and of the Zharangutiun (Heritage) faction Anahit Bakhshian, the odyssey of adoption of this legislative initiative discussed at the parliament since 2005 was finished. It was also mentioned that during this period of time, this draft was edited many times, based on proposals of all the political forces, and a legislative package having a logic which is in keeping with solution of the problems raised today in the sphere of general education was adopted as a result.

The NA also certified two credit agreements. Newly-appointed member of the Constitutional court Manuk Topuzian's oath ceremony took place.

The parliament finished activity of the special session without interruption, in three hours, exhausting the agenda.

7. MASIS MAYILIAN: ADOPTION OF PUBLISHED BASIC PRINCIPLES CONTRADICTS INTERESTS OF NKR AND ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

Presidents of Russia, U.S. and France adopted a statement on the Nagorno Karabakh problem on July 10 at the G8 Summit in the city of L'Aquila, Italy. Noyan Tapan received a commentary by Chairman of Public Council on Foreign Policy and Security, former Deputy Foreign Minister of NKR Masis Mayilian concerning that statement and basic principles of settlement. Below is the commentary completely:

"The text of the joint statement on Nagorno Karabakh conflict by RF President D. Medvedev, U.S. President Barack Obama, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy hardly differs from other statements made earlier at various levels and within the framework of various international structures in support of the OSCE Minsk process. It is noteworthy that now the Presidents of the three countries call the Armenian and Azeri authorities for finishing coordination of concrete principles of settlement that were published on the official website of OSCE (<http://www.osce.org/item/38731.html>).

We will try to shortly comment upon each principle:

1. Return of territories around Nagorno Karabakh under Azerbaijan's control

Ceding any territory under NKR's control to Azerbaijan will mean first of all violation of the basic law, Constitution of NKR, where the given territories are fixed. Secondly, withdrawal of the subdivisions of NKR army from even if part of liberated territories will undermine the military and food security of NKR.

The published principles have even no hint at return to NKR control of more than 1000 sq/m Karabakh lands occupied by Azerbaijan.

Not territories, but borders between NKR and Azerbaijan should be spoken about at the negotiations. Only after the recognition of the NKR statehood by Azerbaijan the bilateral intergovernmental commission should attend to delimitation and demarcation of the state frontiers. It is the international practice of solving frontier arguments.

2. Giving an interim status to Nagorno Karabakh, providing security and autonomy guarantees

Indeed this principle means an attempt to limit NKR sovereignty casting doubt on its independent status and to deprive the republic of its own security system. Recognition of NKR independence would really ensure security of NKR that would give Artsakh new possibilities for maintaining its own security, including with political-diplomatic means.

3. Corridor between Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh

The land communication between NKR and Armenia was established in 1992 May and was enlarged during the operations of 1993. It would be naive to limit the current full-value land communication of NKR with Armenia to the vulnerable "corridor." It is noteworthy that the given principle is proposed as a concession to the Armenians.

4. Determination of the final legal status of Nagorno Karabakh in the future on the basis of juridically obligatory will

The legal status of NKR has been already determined on the basis of juridically obligatory will on December 10, 1991 and was confirmed by another referendum on adoption of NKR Constitution on December 10, 2006. Besides, the NKR people for eight times has expressed its adherence to independent statehood in republican presidential and parliamentary elections by voting for programs of political parties and individual candidates, in which the necessity of international recognition and



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strengthening of NKR statehood was mentioned. Thus, over the past 18 years citizens of NKR for ten times expressed their being for independent status of NKR.

5. Ensuring the right of all internally displaced persons and refugees to return to places of their former residence

The given principle can be discussed by all three sides after recognition of NKR independence by Azerbaijan. A positive moment is the use of the word "all" and not only Azeri refugees. Though it is not understandable who and how can ensure the rights and guarantee the security of hundreds of thousands of people, who can appear in the territory of the opposite side.

6. International guarantees of security, including operations on maintaining peace

In essence, we are suggested replacing the current own system of military security by an inefficient mechanism of "blue helmets." Possible appearance of foreign armed forces in the territory of NKR, even under the flag of authoritative international organizations, will immediately result in abrupt limitation of republic's sovereignty. The circumstance that the NKR sovereignty has not received yet a recognition by the international community and the country is not represented at the above mentioned structures can result in Karabakh's having no levers of influence on these forces guaranteed by the international law. Under the circumstances a possible withdrawal of peacekeeping forces will radically contradict our national interests. NKR cannot limit its state sovereignty without receiving its all-embracing international juridical recognition.

Passage of direct obligations on maintaining security and simultaneously of concrete territories to the third side do not guarantee strengthening of the very security and poses new threats.

Karabakh residents have their own experience of communicating with the "peacekeepers of the Soviet period, when troops from the end of the 1980-s sent for keeping population's security chronically did not cope with their duties and failed to protect the Armenian population of Azerbaijani SSR from massacres and violence. In 1991 by the order of the USSR leadership the very troops banished the Armenian population from some parts of Artsakh (operation Koltso/ Ring). The peacekeeping operations demonstrated low efficiency in other conflict zones, as well.

For governments sending peacekeepers to a conflict region, their interests and the immediate security of the very peacekeepers will be always more important than the security of the local population.

The published basic principles in case of their adoption and realization will damage irreparably the national interests of NKR and RA. The inadmissibility of the basic principles of Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement was fixed in the Resolution of the All-Armenian Conference held on July 10-11, 2009 in the capital city of NKR. Participants of the conference from Armenia, Artsakh, and Diaspora demanded from the RA authorities not to sign the offered document. Obviously, there is an understanding that ceding territories to the enemy, in which the Armenian people has juridical and political, as well as historic rights, will be a strong moral blow for the Armenian people, which can deprive for years of the will of resistance and motivation of building their own statehood."

8. MONITORING TO BE CONDUCTED JULY 15 IN THE NAGORNO KARABAKH-AZERBAIJAN FRONTLINE [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

Office of the Personal Representative to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office applied to the authorities of Nagorno Karabakh Republic with a request to assist the observation in the Askeran direction of NKR-Azerbaijan borderline scheduled for July 15.

NKR Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that from the posts of NKR Armed Forces the monitoring will be conducted by the coordinator of the OSCE Office, vice-colonel Imre Platinus (Hungary) and field assistants to the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office Vladimir Chutlov (Bulgaria) as well as Jaslan Nurtazin (Kazakhstan).

From the opposite side the monitoring will be conducted by the field assistants of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office Peter Keen (GB) and Irzhi Aberlen (Czech Republic).

From the Karabakh side the representatives of NKR Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministries will accompany the monitoring mission.

9. RA PRESIDENT HIGHLY ASSESSES THE PRESENT LEVEL OF ARMENIAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsian had today a meeting of departure with the Ambassador of Russia to Armenia Nikolay Pavlov.

Presidential Press Office told Armenpress that the President of the Republic expressed gratitude to Nikolay Pavlov for his efficient activity in the office of the Ambassador.



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Serzh Sargsian said that Russia is a brotherly state for Armenia, a strategic ally and the main economic partner. Highly assessing the present level of Armenian-Russian relations President Sargsian said that the existing great potential of cooperation gives an opportunity to achieve more and therefore we must work to utmost make use of it.

Serzh Sargsian also stressed the high level of bilateral political dialogue and its intensity pointing out that it allows us to give an operative a rapid solution to the issues which contribute to the further development of the cooperation.

Ambassador Pavlov noted that he leaves Armenia with warm memories and expressed gratitude for the assistance shown during his mission.

President Sargsian wished the diplomat further successes and expressed hope that hereafter the friendly ties with Armenia will be preserved.

10. ILHAM ALIYEV SAYS AN ENCOURAGING DYNAMICS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION PROCESS [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, who pays a visit to London, has stated that in the Karabakh conflict regulation process "a more encouraging dynamics has been established, there are the first results, but they are not yet enough to reach the chief aim – peace".

ITAR-TASS reported today Aliyev as saying during the speech in the Royal Institute of International Affairs which is also known as Chatham House.

11. PHIL CHAMPAIN SAYS THE PEACEFUL REGULATION OF KARABAKH CONFLICT HAS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR THE REGION [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

Director of International Alert international organization program on Asia and Eurasia Phil Champain has stated that the peaceful regulation of the Karabakh conflict has a significant role in the regional peace and development of nations.

"Peace is not only an absence of the war but also an opportunity to free development for the nations," he said during the roundtable on the future of Karabakh organized by the Azerbaijani President-affiliated Center of Strategic Researches and the International Alert.

According to Champain the International Alert deals with the study of South Caucasian conflicts for already 15 years. This international organization works in 20 states of the world.

12. ACCORDING TO SUREN ZOLYAN, THE LATEST STATEMENT OF USA, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENTS DOESN'T MEAN THAT KARABAKH CONFLICT WILL FIND AN URGENT SOLUTION [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

The latest statement of the USA, Russian and French Presidents connected with Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation doesn't mean that Karabakh issue will find an urgent solution, such a viewpoint was expressed by the rector of the State Linguistic University after V. Brusov Suren Zolyan at the joint press conference with the politician Ervand Bozoyan.

On the whole S. Zolyan doesn't stand for the urgent solutions to Karabakh conflict. In his opinion, the negotiations with Azerbaijan are necessary to be continued. He noted that besides participating in the negotiation process, Armenia should give an adequate answer to this or that statements of Azerbaijan and present the real truth to the international community.

S. Zolyan attached great importance to Karabakh's participation in the negotiation process. According to him, it's quite an important issue and the role of NKR in that process should be specified in near future.

E. Bozoyan also attached importance to the negotiation process noting that the current round of the Karabakh conflict settlement is profitable for Armenia and Karabakh. He noted that it is very dangerous to give artificial solutions to such issues, as it can result in a war. The speaker doesn't agree with the opinion that Azerbaijan's status has developed and its economy is boosting rapidly.

He underscored that all the countries should realize that it is necessary to maintain stability in the region, as well as to continue the discussions and find a sensible solution.



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13. PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSIAN VISITS THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

On the occasion of the French National Holiday the Armenian President Serzh Sargsian visited today the Embassy of France to Armenia.

Presidential Press Office told Armenpress that congratulating the Embassy staff the President of the Republic wished further development to France and prosper to French people.

President Sargsian expressed gratitude to France for offering a hand of assistance to the Armenian people during the difficult times for us, sheltering its notable parts and for creating opportunities for development and noted that being full French these people remain loyal to the Armenian identity.

Serzh Sargsian also stressed the importance of the recognition of the Armenian Genocide in 2001 by the law force.

14. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OPEC FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Mr. SULEIMAN JASIR AL-HERBISH AND THE DELEGATION HEADED BY HIM [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian received today the Director General of the OPEC Fund for International Development Mr. Suleiman Jasir Al-Herbish and the delegation headed by him. Coordinator of the Armenian projects of the International Fund for Agriculture Development Henning Pedersen was also present at the meeting.

Public relations department of the Armenian Government told Armenpress that greeting the guests the Prime Minister expressed gratitude for the projects implemented by the Fund in Armenia, stressed the importance of the deepening of the cooperation, particularly the increase of the volumes of investments in the rural communities of the republic, assistance to the enhancement of opportunities of the farmers for marketing, enhancement of the partnership in the infrastructure development, road construction, energy, modernization of the irrigation systems, gasification, allocation of credit means to the small and medium-sized enterprises as well as protection of the vulnerable sections of population and the support to the system creating enterprises for overcoming of the ad hoc difficulties conditioned by the crisis.

During the intercourse Mr. Suleiman Jasir Al-Herbish noted that he highly assesses the collaborative work of the Armenian Government with the Fund and expressed hope that it will be continuative.

During the meeting T. Sargsian stressed that although certain fall has been registered in the economy as a result of the crisis but the crisis also gave an opportunity for reforms which will enable us to implement an efficient cooperation with the partners in different spheres.

15. AMBASSADOR OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO ARMENIA AWARDED FOREIGN MINISTRY'S MEDAL OF HONOR [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Armenia Nikolay Pavlov visited Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian on July 13, on the occasion of finishing his diplomatic mission in Yerevan. The Minister appreciated the Armenian-Russian federal and strategic relations and mentioned that those more deepened and widened during the years of Ambassador Pavlov's officiating. According to the RA Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department, the Foreign Minister of Armenia expressed gratitude to Nikolay Pavlov for the activity aimed at strengthening of the Armenian-Russian cooperation, for everyday consistent activity and personal contribution. Ambassador Pavlov confessed that he leaved Armenia with warm memories and thanked for the Foreign Ministry's assistance during his mission.

Minister Nalbandian awarded the Foreign Ministry's medal of honour to Ambassador Pavlov, wishing him success in his further activity.

16. SERGE SMESSOW: FRANCE HAS MANY FRIENDS IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

The main interest of France in the South Caucasian region is to see a stable and peaceful region. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to the Republic of Armenia Serge Smessow mentioned it at the July 13 meeting with journalists. It is not in vain that France is one of the three co-chairing countries of the OSCE Minsk Group on the issue of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement, and President of France Nicolas Sarkozy directly participated in steps aimed at overcoming the crisis during the days of the 2008 Russian-Georgian crisis. The Ambassador emphasized that France



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is one of the initiators of the European Neighbourhood Policy program within the framework of the European Union.

S. Smessow estimates the statement of Presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries Medvedev, Obama and Sarkozy on the issue of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement as encouraging at the highest level to continue the negotiation process to find a reasonable solution for the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The President of his country came out against Turkey's membership to the European Union, he said, emphasizing that France is not the only country that has doubts about Turkey's membership.

The Ambassador estimates the Armenian-French relations as excellent, splendid: those develop both in political and in economic spheres. The cooperation also develops at the level of the two countries' regions, marzes, cities, communities. The existence of the French University in Armenia is a peculiar expression of that cooperation. The long-standing relations between the two peoples coming still from the Middle Ages furthered the cooperation. He reminded that France is one of the countries that gave shelter to Armenians rescued from the Genocide, there is an Armenian community of about half-million in France.

The Ambassador also stated that some receptions will be organized at the Embassy on the occasion of the national holiday of France, the storming of the Bastille which is celebrated on July 14: France has many friends in Armenia and it is impossible to limit themselves to one reception.

17. HAKOB AVETIKIAN EXPELLED FROM RAMKAVAR-AZATAKAN PARTY [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

Azg daily's editor-in-chief Hakob Avetikian was expelled from the Ramkavar-Azatakan Party by the decision of party's Central Board. According to the Ramkavar-Azatakan Party July 12 statement, H. Avetikian's anti-party activity and commission of perjury to party's oath was a basis for such a decision.

18. PRESIDENTS OF U.S., FRANCE, AND RUSSIA CALL LEADERS OF ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN FOR SETTLING LONG-LASTING CONFLICT [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

The Presidents of countries chairing in the OSCE Minsk Group, U.S., France, and Russia Barack Obama, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Dmitry Medvedev expressed their support to Armenia's and Azerbaijan's efforts to complete elaboration of the basic principles of the Nagorno Karabakh settlement. They called the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan for settling the long-lasting conflict and instructed the mediators to pass to the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan the revised variant of the program on establishment of peace introduced in 2007 in Madrid.

"We call the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan for solving several remaining disagreements and bring to a final form their agreement On Basic Principles, which will outline the general picture of an all-embracing settlement," the joint statement of co-chairing countries' heads adopted lately read.

According to the Associated Press agency, Madrid Principles imply return of territories adjoining Nagorno Karabakh to Azerbaijan, security and autonomy guarantees and an interim status to Nagorno Karabakh, land communication between Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, right of displaced persons and refugees to return to places of their residence, final solution of Nagorno Karabakh status, "through expression of will having a compulsory force in the legal respect."

19. GAGIK JHANGIRIAN: PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT IS DOOMED TO VICTORY [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

Armenia's law enforcement bodies and judicial system do not carry out their constitutional and legislative duties and have been completely turned into structures serving regime's political orders, concealing wealthy persons', state officials' business and property. Former RA Deputy Prosecutor General Gagik Jhangirian made such a statement at the July 14 press conference. Henceforth he will coordinate the work of the Armenian National Congress' State and Legal Commission and Center for Legal Protection.

According to G. Jhangirian, law enforcement and judicial bodies not only fail to carry out their duties, but also violate the Constitution and the laws with their illegal actions. "Thousands of citizens continue undergoing administrative, police, criminal prosecutions for their political views and convictions, active civil position," he said.

According to G. Jhangirian, the Police are overloaded with functions not peculiar to them, mass political persecutions, limitations of citizens' free travel, blockades of roads and populated areas, which



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take huge efforts, time, human and material resources from that structure. As a result the structure in essence has been isolated from its main duties of fighting crime, the direct consequence of which is the unprecedented growth of crime and low index of crimes disclosure.

According to G. Jhangirian's estimation, the Prosecutor's Office has been turned into a bureau of planning artificial criminal intrigues against political oppositionists, their family members and relatives, even against their friends, and the Special Investigation Service has become a workshop of perverting and spoiling young investigators.

G. Jhangirian also considers that we have a deep crisis in the judicial sphere in Armenia: a citizen is absolutely unprotected, applying for law enforcement bodies for protection of his freedoms and rights is not only vain, but is also fraught with unpredictable consequences as there is no guarantee that he will not be turned from a persecuted person into a charged one. "It is the main motivation of citizen's choosing migration as a way out from estrangement, self-isolation, hard moral-psychological condition," G. Jhangirian said.

To come out of the formed situation and to improve the situation ANC is going to create a special data base of recording violations of citizens' rights and freedoms. The collected information will be provided to the future authorities of Armenia to restore citizens' violated rights. "The people's movement is doomed to a victory," G. Jhangirian said not excluding a victory through special elections.

20. GAGIK JHANGIRIAN CONSIDERS THAT HE IS FORCED TO STAY IDLE [Aravot, 07/14/09]

RA National Assembly deputy Khachatur Sukiasian searched for will be arrested in case of presenting himself to the law enforcement bodies and unless he presents himself, the law enforcement bodies will continue searching for him, but will fail to find him. Former RA Deputy Prosecutor General Gagik Jhangirian stated at the July 14 press conference. He has been lately set free from the place of imprisonment by an amnesty.

In his words, the charges brought to Haykakan Zhamanak daily's editor-in-chief Nikol Pashinian and K. Sukiasian, as well as to former Foreign Minister Alexander Arzumanian set free by an amnesty and to others are absurd. G. Jhangirian said that the sentences on over 90 cases filed on the 2008 March 1 events will be appealed against without fail.

He said that his brother, Vardan Jhangirian, who was sentenced to suspended imprisonment with the charge of using violence to a power representative not dangerous for life or health has been returned from Germany, where he received treatment and now is able to walk without crutches. However he is returning to Germany in a few months to continue his treatment.

G. Jhangirian not agreeing to the definition "former deputy prosecutor general" stated that he continues holding his office, he is just forced to stay idle. "I am waiting until they furnish, repair my office, then I will return," he said.

21. ARFD ARMENIAN SUPREME BODY: STATEMENT OF OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRING COUNTRIES' HEADS VIOLATES ARTSAKH PEOPLE'S SELF-DETERMINATION RIGHT [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

The ARFD Armenian Supreme Body is organizing an action of protest in front of the RA Foreign Ministry building on July 16 in token of protest to the latest statement of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries' heads.

"Today the Armenians are again on the threshold of an important historic ordeal. The latest statement of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries' heads violates Artsakh people's self-determination right and ignores the fact of NKR's existence. It predetermines the Nagorno Karabakh problem settlement to the detriment of Armenia and the Armenians," ARFD Armenian Supreme Body July 14 statement read.

Mentioning that ARFD is against any concession endangering country's and all Armenians' vital interests, the Supreme Body calls for joining the general uprising of Armenians and with their participation in the action of protest reaffirming the unity and resolution of all Armenians in national-state issues.

According to the statement, actions of protest will be also held in many countries of the world on that day.



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22. ACCORDING TO RPA REPRESENTATIVE, PACKAGE OF CO-CHAIRS' PROPOSALS IS IN ARMENIAN SIDE'S INTERESTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

RPA's position in the issue of Nagorno Karabakh settlement is unchanged: Armenia should never make one-sided concessions, and Nagorno Karabakh's status is the main problem. RPA Spokesperson, RA National Assembly deputy Eduard Sharmazanov stated on July 14.

Commenting upon the recent statement on Nagorno Karabakh conflict made by the Presidents of the U.S., Russia, and France, E. Sharmazanov mentioned that "it is not a coordinated final plan, but only a package of proposals, which is in Armenian side's interests." Besides, according to him, "the Presidents in their statements practically fixed Nagorno Karabakh's independence."

He reminded of the three points of principle mentioned by President Serzh Sargsyan, over which Armenia cannot make a compromise. First, Nagorno Karabakh cannot be part of Azerbaijan. The second condition is that Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia should have common land borders and the third condition is that the security guarantees of Nagorno Karabakh population and state should be exact. In the opinion of the RPA Spokesperson, these principles were taken into consideration.

According to E. Sharmazanov, it cannot be considered accidental that "much hysteria" emerged in Azerbaijan. "It is not accidental that Azeri analysts spoke exactly, I will cite that "Azerbaijan is losing Nagorno Karabakh" and "it cannot be part of Azerbaijan," he said.

23. HRANUSH HAKOBIAN RECEIVES DIASPORAN ARFD FIGURES [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian received Diasporan ARFD figures - participants of the All Armenian Conference on Armenian-Turkish relations and Nagorno Karabakh problem held in Artsakh, ARFD Syrian Central Committee member, Aleppo Sahakian school headmaster Jirayr Reisian, Israel Hay Dat Office Executive Georget Avagian, ARFD Western Europe Central Committee members Zareh Minasian and Dro Ekmekjian (France). The guests in their talk with the Minister presented the goals of the Artsakh conference, the range of the issues discussed, and the national significance of the decisions made. According to the ARFD figures, the problems discussed at the conference completely involve the problems faced by the Armenian people and the Armenian state, the starting point of which is the problems the Armenians worldwide are concerned with: the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian Cause, and there is a need of showing a common approach in any issue regarding them. They expressed their concern in the respect of making competent the Armenian communities and especially Armenian youth of Diaspora over the above mentioned approaches and involving the Armenian youth in national issues.

Minister Hranush Hakobian attached importance to holding of such a representative conference on problems all Armenians are concerned with.

According to the RA Ministry of Diaspora Press and Public Relations Department, the meeting participants discussed issues regarding preservation of the Armenian identity, in particular, attached importance to solving the issue of providing assistance to the only Armenian everyday school in the city of Marseille, France.

The Diasporan figures also expressed concern over issues related to transportation of textbooks, fiction as there are libraries that have not received literature printed in Armenia more than 20 years. The guests also inquired about the process of the program Come Home and expressed readiness to assist 50 children in October to come to Armenia from France and to take part in the program.

24. A. MELIKIAN SAYS THE KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION REQUIRES A COMPLEX SOLUTION [Azg, 07/15/09]

It is wrong to handle the Nagorno Karabakh issue from only the angle of the status; it requires a complex approach, said the former Nagorno Karabakh Foreign Minister Arman Melikian to journalists.

"The issue is not only the recognition. It is a process with recognition of Nagorno Karabakh Republic as a culmination. For it the Armenian as well as the international community should be prepared to that. NKR has no issue of self-determination as it has already been self-determined and must get an international recognition," A. Melikian noted.

According to former NKR Foreign Minister there is only one news in the issue "Madrid" principals; if formerly only the Azerbaijani refugees were spoken about, today the issue touches the refugees on the whole presupposing the Armenian refugees as well.

A. Melikian said that the proposals of the mediators can be transformed but the essence remains the same; they suggest handing the liberated territories, ensure the return of Azerbaijani refugees



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postponing the issue of the status of Nagorno Karabakh republic and do not refer to the issues of Azerbaijani Armenians at all.

According to him the handing of liberated territories is wrong and impossible, as well as the entrance of foreign forces is also unjustified taking into consideration the fact that they never commit the tasks put for them.

25. THE NA SPEAKER VISITS FRENCH EMBASSY TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

After the working visit to the province of Ararat, the NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan visited July 14 evening the French Embassy to Armenia.

Public relations department of the NA told Armenpress that the head of the Parliament congratulated Ambassador Serj Smesov and the working staff of the Embassy on the occasion of French national holiday – Bastille Conquer Day.

He wished prospering to the friendly French nation to the welfare of Armenian-French bilateral relations and for the peace and stability of the whole European continent. In that context Mr. H. Abrahamyan highly assessed French role as one of the leading countries of the European Union and international community.

He also attached importance to the circumstance that RA NA recently achieved the status of the associated member of Parliamentary Union of Francophone.

26. SERZH SARGSYAN INTERRUPTS HIS WORKING VISIT TO SHIRAK PROVINCE CONNECTED WITH THE CRASH OF THE AIRPLANE [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan interrupted his working visit to the province of Shirak connected with the crash of the airplane implementing Tehran-Yerevan flight and returned to Yerevan, presidential press office told Armenpress.

BUSINESS

27. GERMAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH “KfW” BANK TO PROVIDE ARMENIA WITH €20 MILLION FOR ALLOCATION AS A HYPOTHEC CREDIT [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

Armenian governmental delegation will leave July 14 for the German Bonn town where an agreement will be signed with the German Government through the “KfW” bank to provide Armenia with €20 million of credit.

These sums will be allocated in Armenia as hypothec credits with it contributing to the development of the hypothec market of the republic during today’s press conference said the head of Armenian Central Bank Arthur Javadian who is also in the delegation staff.

According to A. Javadian Armenia will get the credit on rather good conditions. Not only commerce banks but also the credit organizations can make use of these means.

28. A BONUS PROJECT BEING INPUTTED IN THE “DINO GOLD MINING COMPANY” FOR PAYMENT OF THE SALARIES [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

In parallel to the increase of prices for metals in the world market the “Dino Gold Mining Company” is not going to increase the salaries of its workers which were decreased in connection with the world economic crisis. In stead of it the Company plans to input a so called bonus project which will be profitable for the company as well as for the workers.

Chief Director of the enterprise Robert Faletta told Armenpress that with it the enterprise will reach its aim and the volumes of salaries of the workers will be dependent upon the work they have done. The project has already been presented to the underground workers. Suchlike projects are also being designed for other workers of the company.

The Company has reached an agreement with the Government from July this year to pay the workers for the night work which has not been done by now. The salaries of the last months will also be paid.

In parallel to these measures directed towards confrontation of the economic crisis dismissals of workers are nevertheless expected in the “Dino Gold Mining Company”.

“We have always said that 950 workers are needed for the efficient activity of the enterprise, while today more than 1200 people work. I am not a defender for mass dismissals. It will be done during



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the upcoming 6 months. It is a fact that today there are workers which are paid but no job exists for them," the Director said.

29. THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WORKERS AND DIRECTORSHIP IN "DINO GOLD MINING COMPANY" LTD GROWS [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

The disagreement between the employees and directorship is growing in Kapan "Dino Gold Mining Company" LTD.

Since July 13 the workers of the underground mine have declared the strike by indefinite time. Their main demands are the increase of the salaries, payment for the night work and improvement of working conditions. According to the strikers, in the latest period the salary has decreased by 50 % and the productive plans have increased by 100%.

If previously they received 230-240 000 drams, today they receive overall 120 000 drams for the double and more requirements job.

The chief director of the company Robert Faletta was informed beforehand about this strike, who for purpose of smoothing the workers' dissatisfactions, had worked out the so called "bonus" program based on the rewards, but that program has not been admitted by the workers.

The strikers are decisive. They even demand their salaries and want them to make a final calculation, after which they are ready to resign from the work according to their own applications.

Chief Director of the company Robert Faletta has his own opinion about the increasing discontent of the workers. "Unfortunately, the workers aren't very sensible and don't realize that the company loses millions of dollars per month, that the head of the company permanently gives cash grants to the company and does its best in such conditions of the international economy", - he told Armenpress.

30. NATIONAL MORTGAGE COMPANY STARTS ITS ACTIVITIES [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

The National Mortgage Company (NMC) on July 10 started its activities under the first credit refinancing agreement signed with Armbusinessbank. Chairman of the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) Arthur Javadian said at the July 13 press conference that the main purpose of creating the NMC is to develop the mortgage market in Armenia in order to make commercial banks' mortgage credits accessible to society.

According to him, the Company's activities will be aimed at providing the necessary long-term financial resources for crediting the financial institutions providing mortgage credits - through refinancing the mortgage credits given by such institutions. That is, a citizen applies to a commercial bank for a mortgage credit, and if the bank provides a credit on conditions acceptable to the NMC, it will receive NMC's refinancing in the maximum amount of 20 million drams (54 thousand USD). The NMC refinances the credits provided by commercial banks at a 9% interest rate. Its capital currently amounts to more than 17 billion drams which was allocated by the CBA. The NMC was officially established in June, and participation of other investors in its capital is encouraged. It may issue bonds in the near future.

A. Javadian announced that mortgage credits will be provided for a period of 10 years and over. He expressed confidence that the NMC's creation and its activities will contribute to a reduction of interest rates in the mortgage market as the NMC will refinance first of all credits to be provided at lower interest rates. A. Javadian added that a growth in credit provision and a fall in interest rates was observed in the Armenian banking system in late June.

Executive Director of the NMC Mher Yedigarian stated that the Company is now negotiating with another two banks and credit agreements will be signed with them soon. "We expect the banks to become more active, while the competition in the mortgage market will be conducive to a fall in interest rates and improvement in the conditions of credit provision," he said, noting that the NMC will refinance credits not only in Yerevan, but also in marzes.

Chairman of Armbusinessbank Ara Kirakosian said that their bank currently extends credits at 13-14% interest rate. In his opinion, when the NMC starts refinancing mortgage credits of banks, competition will emerge and the interest rates will decline.

31. ACCORDING TO A. JAVADIAN, FALL OF PRICES NOT TO CONTINUE IN HOUSING MARKET [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

The demand for mortgage loans continues to be strong in Armenia, Chairman of the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) Arthur Javadian stated at the July 13 press conference.



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In his words, some depressive phenomena have formed in the economy in connection with the fall in realty prices, and many have postponed their transactions in anticipation of further fall in prices. Studies have shown that in 2009 realty prices fell by 7-10% in terms of drams and by about 30% in terms of foreign currency compared to 2008. By A. Javadian's forecast, the price fall in the housing market will not continue, and now is the most favorable period for purchasing an apartment.

It was mentioned that the portfolio of the mortgage loans of the commercial banks currently amounts to 84 million drams.

32. GERMANY TO PROVIDE 20 MILLION EUROS TO ARMENIA FOR DEVELOPING ITS MORTGAGE MARKET [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

Germany will provide 20 million euros to Armenia. The indicated sum will be given through KfW bank and allocated for the development of Armenia's mortgage market, Chairman of the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) Arthur Javadian announced at the July 13 press conference.

According to him, Armenia will receive the credit on quite favorable terms, and this money can be used not only by commercial banks, but also by other credit institutions.

The intergovernmental agreement on the credit's provision will be signed in Bonn where the CBA chairman will go on July 14.

DIASPORA

33. HRANUSH HAKOBIAN CALLS GREEK ARMENIAN COMMUNITY FOR TAKING ACTIVE PART IN ALL-ARMENIAN EVENTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

On July 8, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian received members of the ARFD Greek Central Committee, Orofasma company representative Kevork Kolanian, JH Biotech company marketing manager Vahan K. Bezdikian, writer and translator Sargis Aghabadian.

Representatives of the Greek Armenian community informed the Minister that Armenians migrating from Armenia joined the community in the past years. It was mentioned that three Armenian schools work in the Athens region, while there are none in the northern regions of Greece, and children from thousands of Armenian families are deprived of the possibility of learning the Armenian language. The way of solving the problem is opening of one-day Armenian schools. Four one-day schools already work in the northern regions of Greece, where teaching is also done in Eastern Armenian. It is planned to open one more school by September 1.

The list of textbooks Armenian schools of Greece need was introduced to Minister H. Hakobian. They attached importance to RA government's solving the issue of transporting textbooks from Armenia to the Diaspora in as efficient ways as possible.

According to the RA Ministry of Diaspora Press and Public Relations Department, the Minister proposed introducing the list of the cities and schools of Greece, where it is expedient to open one-day Armenian schools or Armenian Language and History of Armenian People will be taught at those schools. Besides, it was proposed making active the preparatory work in Greece for All-Armenian Forums of Lawyers, Bankers, and Financiers to be held in 2009 in Yerevan and to ensure maximum participation of Greek Armenian specialists of the mentioned spheres in those events.

Minister H. Hakobian also called for starting cooperation between the Greek Armenian community and the Hayern Aysor electronic newspaper of the RA Ministry of Diaspora, which will give a possibility to present community's organizations and prominent figures in the newspaper. She expressed willingness for the community to take part in the Ministry's program Come Home in 2010. The Minister called the Greek Armenian community for being represented to the maximum extent at the One Nation, One Culture regular festival to be held in 2010 and said that the Ministry undertakes steps for that event, unlike the past years, to be held during the whole year.

Representatives of the Greek Armenian community assured that they will do their best to support implementation of the programs H. Hakobian mentioned.

Touching upon community's cultural initiatives, the guests said that T. Altunian state ensemble of song and dance will perform concerts in November in Greece and A. Spendirian's Anush opera is planned to be staged at Athens Opera Theater in 2010 May with participation of Armenian musicians.

Minister H. Hakobian added that legislative solutions of giving certain powers to the authoritative Diasporan organizations should be found. These powers regard granting proper guarantee certificate to Diasporan Armenians who want to be granted citizenship of Armenia, but have no document certifying their being Armenian, to those who wish to adopt a child in Armenia, and other issues. In H. Hakobian's



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opinion, giving such powers to Diasporan organizations will contribute to strengthening of Diasporan Armenian-Diasporan organization-Armenia contacts.

34. ISTANBUL ARMENIAN HISTORIAN GIVES LECTURE IN USA ON SUBJECT "HUMAN RIGHTS AND WORLD PEACE" [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

Between June 28 to July 7 famous Istanbul Armenian linguist and historian Barsegh Tooghadjian took part in the scientific and art conference in Washington held by American Biographical Academy and Biographical Center, Cambridge, England and gave a lecture on the theme "Human Rights and World Peace".

According to the Marmara daily, Tooghadjian is often invited to these conferences and often gives lectures. In 2000 he gave a lecture on the theme "The Turkish-American Relations in the History" and presented George Washington's oil painted portrait painted by talented painter Erol Sarafian. Tooghadjian took that portrait to the White House himself and gave it to USA President Bill Clinton.

This time he took USA Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's oil painted portrait, which is also painted by Erol Sarafian, and gave it personally to the Secretary of State.

In Washington Tooghadjian visited Armenian Ambassador to the US Tatul Margarian and Turkish Ambassador to the US Nabi Shensoy.

35. PROGRAM OF RA MINISTRY OF DIASPORA "MARRIAGE WITH BLESSING OF MY HOMELAND" LAUNCHED WITH MARRIAGE OF CANADIAN ARMENIAN COUPLE [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

On the initiative of the RA Ministry of Diaspora the movement "Marriage with the blessing of my homeland" was launched among the youth of Diaspora, and the wedding ceremony of the first couple who responded to the program took place in the capital of Armenia Yerevan.

According to the Press and Information Department of the RA Ministry of Diaspora, the goal of the program is to promote creation of new Armenian families, preservation of traditions and customs of the Armenian family, their taking roots in homeland, to contribute to the strengthening of the Homeland-Diaspora relations, preservation of the Armenian spirit, to secure the preservation and descent of Armenian spiritual-religious and national values from one generation to another, to contribute to the awakening of national self-consciousness of the youth in Diaspora, bearing the influence of different cultures, to encourage them in returning to Armenian roots and to promote the pilgrimage of Diasporan Armenians to Armenia.

According to the Armenian tradition, after getting married in church the newly married couple comes to the groom's birthplace. Taking into account the circumstance that the couple is from the Diaspora, the RA Ministry of Diaspora was presented as a birthplace for them, as the RA Ministry of Diaspora is announced as home for Diasporan Armenians. The program was approved by Mayor of Yerevan Gagik Beglarian and a decision was made to organize the solemn wedding ceremony at Yerevan Mayor's Office.

The official part of Diasporan Armenian couple's wedding ceremony took place at Yerevan Mayor's Office on July 11. Minister Diaspora Hranush Hakobian and Mayor of Yerevan Gagik Beglarian congratulated the newly married couple and their relatives and wished them all the best.

36. "COME HOME" PROJECT OF THE DIASPORA MINISTRY IS TO KICK OFF ON JULY 15 [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

The "Come to Home" project of RA Diaspora Ministry is to kick off on July 15. By now more than 300 14-25 year old Diaspora-Armenians have presented applications of participation. 137 young people will participate in the first round.

The coordinator of the project Zhenya Azizyan told today to journalists that young people from the Armenian communities of Egypt, Syria, Iran, Turkey, France, Russia and Ukraine will dwell in Yerevan families; the latter are selected by the Diaspora Ministry with the support of the communities.

The Diaspora-Armenian young people will stay in the homeland for 2 weeks, during which visits will be organized to the historical-cultural places of Armenia. 470 families from Armenia have by now presented applications on hosting the young people.

"They agreed to support this initiative with great delight, as they realize the importance of the project", - Zh. Azizyan said.



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25 million drams has been released from RA state budget for the implementation of the project, within the frames of which a contract on providing relevant services has already been signed with the company which won the tender announced by the State Procurement Agency.

The Association of the Iraqi-Armenians of America, "VivaCell-MTS" Company, Yerevan Cognac Company and "ArmenTel" CJSC have expressed wish to sponsor the project.

The Project of the Diaspora Ministry entitled "Come to Home", which organizes periodical visits for Diaspora's young people to Armenia, is attested with the decision of the Armenian government on May 14 of 2009. The goal of the "Come to Home" is to make Armenia recognizable for the Armenian young people spread all over the world, to disseminate the national merit system in them, to present them the Armenian family, the spirit of the Armenian, as well as Armenian-Diaspora relations in ethical-scientific and educational-cultural issues.

ARTS

37. SERZH SARGSYAN HOSTS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION OF FILM PRODUCERS ALAIN TERZYAN AND HIS WIFE [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 07/14/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan today hosted the chairman of the French Association of Film Producers, president of the French Film Arts Academy and "Cesar" Academy, Administrator of Cannes film-festival Alain Terzyan and his wife.

The presidential press office told Armenpress that on the July 13 decree of the President, Alain Terzyan has been awarded with the Order of Honor for the significant contribution in the field of film arts, as well as for the close cultural cooperation with the homeland and the activity promoting to the deepening of Armenian-French friendship.

Noting that Armenia is proud to have a compatriot like Alain Terzyan, Serzh Sargsyan noted: "It is thanks to people like you that Armenia is being more recognized throughout the world. Our aim is that our compatriots living abroad and being a good citizens of the given country consider Armenia as their historical homeland at the same time".

Serzh Sargsyan welcomed the world famous film director's participation in the "Golden Apricot" film-festival.

"I am very glad, proud and excited that I am in Armenia – in my historical homeland. When I made a step on the Armenian land, I had an unusual feeling. It can understand only the Armenian, who has dreamed of being in Armenia during his/her whole life, and that dream has eventually come true", - Alain Terzyan said.

The French-Armenian art figure noted that he is impressed by the "Golden Apricot" festival, which attains greater reputation year by year.

38. GOLDEN APRICOT 6TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL COOPERATES WITH NEW YORK MARGARET MEAD FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

The Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival is presented this year in the list of the programs of the Golden Apricot 6th International Film Festival. The Margaret Mead Festival's prize winners of different years as well as Middle Asian and Armenian films are involved in the program. The program is aimed to develop this film festival of documentary films among the local film producers in Armenia, to present Armenian and regional documentary films with the films chosen by Margaret Mead and to encourage the exchange.

The Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival of New York is the most voluminous and first-rate annual show of foreign documentary films in the United States. The festival was founded by the American Museum of Natural History, in honour of leading anthropologist Margaret Mead's 75th birthday anniversary and 50th anniversary of her activity at the museum. The festival represents every year a wide choice of works in the sense of both form and content. The festival is striking by excellent choice of films where various and urgent themes are touched upon, and a wide series of problems and perspectives is presented. The festival organizers make a serious choice, taking into consideration both quality and regional and thematic variety of the claims.

According to the Press Service of the Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival, Ariella Ben-Dov, the Artistic and Festival Director of the Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival at the American Museum of Natural History will represent the films at the Armenian festival.

Besides Yerevan, the program will be also represented in the regions, Gyumri and Kapan.



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The program is implemented with the assistance of the OSI Arts and Culture internet program of Budapest.

RELIGION

39. CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS LEAVES FOR MOSCOW [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II left today for Moscow on a one-day official visit where he will meet the newly elected head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kiril I.

Press office of the Mother See told Armenpress that the Karekin II will be accompanied by archbishop Nurhan Manoukian, Chairperson the Religious gathering of the K. Polis Armenian Patriarchate archbishop Aram Ateshian, leader of the Artsakh Diocese archbishop Pargev Martirosian, leader of the USA Armenian Eastern Diocese archbishop Khazhak Parsamian, responsible of the Mother See for the inter-church relations archbishop Yeznik Petrosian, leader of the new Nakhijevan and Russian Diocese bishop Yezras Nersisian, leader of the Armenian Diocese of Southern Russia bishop Movses Movsisian, Member of the Supreme Ecclesiastic Council Rouben Vardanian, Gagik Ghazinian, Hovnan Hakobian.

SOCIAL

40. REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE TO LEAVE FOR MOSCOW ON JULY 14 [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

Grand Sacristan of the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople and Religious Council Chairman Archbishop Aram Ateshian will leave for Moscow on July 14, but not on the previous day, the Marmara daily corrects. He will join here the retinue of Karekin II Catholicos of All Armenians.

His Holiness Patriarch, accompanied by high-ranking clergymen, will pay an official visit to Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia and will congratulate him on the occasion of his being elected.

41. ARMENIAN AUTHORITIES DO NOT REALIZE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORIC-CULTURAL VALUES, SPECIALIST ON MONUMENTS SAMVEL KARAPETIAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

An illustrated book under the title Western Azerbaijan's Monuments was published in several languages in 2007 in Azerbaijan. The book includes almost all cultural monuments of Armenia. Specialist on monuments Samvel Karapetian reported at the July 10 press conference showing the journalists the copy of that book, in which Noravank, Amberd and many other Armenian monuments are presented as Azeri ones. He said that Azeris give copies of the book to foreign officials.

According to S. Karapetian, it is noteworthy that Azeri President Ilham Aliyev's greeting speech is presented on the first page of the book. "If book's author had published his book on his own, we would say that he is a sick man and would not pay attention to him. However, if the book was published with President's sponsorship, our state should respond to it without fail," S. Karapetian said.

He said that historian Ruben Ghalejian has lately published an album-book under the title New Armenia, which, in essence, delivers a counter-blow to Azerbaijan's misrepresenting the history. According to S. Karapetian, that book consisting of 12 sections is about the Armenian mountainous land, water spaces and the whole cultural heritage. The specialist on monuments added that appreciating R. Ghalejian's work, he also considers that it is the state that should attend to issues of monuments' preservation. And for the present, according to him, the state and the authorities do not realize the importance of historic-cultural values.

42. A NEW SOCIAL HOUSE IS TO BE BUILT IN GYUMRI [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

In 2010 a new Social House is intended to be built for the homeless lonely pensioners, as well as for refugee families in Gyumri with the support of the Swiss government. Anahit Gevorgyan, the Deputy Head of the department of the issues of the old and disabled people of RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, told Armenpress that the project on the construction of the Social House is in the discussion phase and is implemented by the "Swiss Organization of Armenian Development" in collaboration with the Ministry.



At present a range of issues on the number of the beneficiaries and the territory are being specified. By the initial data the Social House will be accommodated for about 100 people, the dwellings will be given to the most needy homeless families and lonely pensioners by a contract only on a right for dwell.

A. Gevorgyan noted that in case the settled family doesn't implement its obligations, the organization is authorized to annul the contract.

A suchlike social house was built in the Republic on the initiative of the Swiss government in Goris, where there are 24 dwellings, as well as in Yerevan with 28 dwellings.

"We greatly need such social houses, the demand for them is great, as there is a great number of socially insecure homeless people. A commission has been set up for the purpose of the selection of such people for settling in the new Social House, with the participation of the Ministry, Goris Governor's Office and the representatives of the "Swiss Organization of Armenian Development".

43. INTERNATIONAL 30TH CONFERENCE OF YOUNG EASTERN SCIENTISTS KICKS OFF IN THE INSTITUTE OF EASTERN SCIENCES OF ARMENIAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

International 30th three-day conference of young eastern scientists kicked off today in the Institute of Eastern Sciences of the National Academy of Science.

Greeting the participants of the conference the head of the Institute of Oriental Studies of Armenian National Academy of Science Rouben Safrastian noted that the Armenian Oriental Studies is of great respect among the orientalists of the whole world which has been achieved in virtue of the representatives of the elder generation. He urged the young Armenian orientalists not only to preserve but also to increase this high authority.

Chairperson of the Council of Young Orientalists of the Institute of Oriental Studies Sona Grigorian noted that more than 5 dozens of specialists take part in the jubilee conference which is more than the number of last year's participants.

44. THE WORLD'S LONGEST ROPE-WAY TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN TATEV [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

Today an agreement on construction of the rope-way to Tatev has been signed between the member of the council of Armenian National Competitiveness fund Artashes Kazakhetsian and the sales vice-manager of the Swiss rope-way construction "Garaventa" enterprise Peter Bauman.

Within the frameworks of the agreement within a year's period a rope-way will be constructed taking from the Halidzor village of the Syunik province to Tatev of overall 5.7 km length. The contract overall costs €6.8 million. With its type the rope-way will be the longest one in the world.

Executive Director of Armenian National Competitiveness Fund Bekor Papazian told Armenpress that the rope-way is intended to be exploited all year round taking 25 passengers at a time. The construction works of the rope-way will start from September this year and finish in September 2010.

According to the representative of Swiss "Garaventa" company P. Bauman their company is among the most prominent ones in the world with a turnover of €500-600 million annually. In the whole world "Garaventa" annually constructs 150-200 rope-ways having constructed overall 17 000 rope-ways in its history.

B. Papazian said that the construction of the rope-way is a part of the "Rebirth and reconstruction of Tatev" three-year project of the Armenian National Competitiveness Fund which kicked off in February this year. The project intends besides the construction of the rope-way to entirely reconstruct the Tatev Monastic complex, build a high rated hotel in the Halidzor village and make investments in the seven villages of the region aimed at their development.

The entire project is assessed €25 million. The project will be finished in three years. "It will have a great importance in this region in respect of the development of tourism. Only with the construction of the rope-way the number of tourists in Tatev will increase three times," B. Papazian said.

Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsian reminded that the project has been approved during the latest outgoing session of the Government in Syunik province.

"This is one of those projects which are of great approval by the states. This is a good example of state-private sector cooperation which will have great results. These prominent investments are not only directed towards the development of tourism but also will bring complicated engineering solutions to our region," the Economy Minister noted.



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45. OSCE OFFICE ORGANIZES HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING FOR YOUNG ACTIVISTS FROM ARMENIAN PROVINCES [ARMENPRESS, 07/14/09]

OSCE Office organizes human rights training for young activists from Armenia's regions. Twenty-seven young activists and representatives of non-governmental organizations from Armenia's regions completed the five-day "Step Ahead" training course on human rights in Sevan today.

Senior Assistant to the OSCE Yerevan Office for media and public relations affairs Gayane Ter-Stepanian told Armenpress that the training course was organized by the Helsinki Committee of Armenia and the Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development with the support of the OSCE Office in Yerevan and the Delegation of the European Commission to Armenia.

The project aimed to strengthen the skills of young human rights activists from Armenia's regions to monitor, identify and report on human rights violations in their local communities.

The participants learned about citizen participation in local government's decision-making procedures, tolerance, domestic and international human rights instruments and protection mechanisms.

"A strong civil society is a vital factor in a democratic society. I hope that this exercise of empowerment for young human rights activists will contribute to the improved protection of human rights in the regions and consolidation of democratic institutions in Armenia," said the Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Ambassador Sergey Kapinos.

"The younger generation is the driving force to achieve positive changes in a society. Changes in the mentality of young people, increased motivation and knowledge of human rights protection tools and mechanisms will result in more effective human rights protection in Armenia," said Avetik Ishkhanyan, the Chairman of the Armenian Helsinki Committee.

46. ONE OF ISTANBUL STREETS LIKELY TO BE NAMED AFTER HRANT DINK [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

The street in the district of Sisli, Istanbul, which is adjacent to the place of Hrant Dink's murder, is likely to be named after Hrant Dink. According to news.am, a meeting of the Sisli Municipal Council was convened on July 8 during which a decision was made to rename the street named Safak after Hrant Dink. All the Council members present at the meeting were for that proposal.

It is mentioned that this decision is not final yet. The decision of the Sisli Municipal Council must also be affirmed by the Istanbul Municipal Council. If the decision is affirmed here, the name of the street will be changed and if the Istanbul Municipal Council decides not to rename the street after Hrant Dink, then we must wait for the issue is again put to the vote at the Istanbul Municipal Council. According to the law if the Istanbul Municipality declines the proposal of renaming three times, the final decision will be made by the Sisli Municipal Council.

47. MORE THAN 1 000 INVITATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN FIRST PAN-ARMENIAN FORUM OF LAWYERS SENT OUT [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/14/09]

The First Pan-Armenian Forum of Lawyers will held on September 19-20, in Yerevan. The RA Ministry of Diaspora which is the initiator of it, sent out to communities of Diaspora more than 1 000 invitations for participation in the conference. 700 of them were sent out to the Armenian lawyers of the United States of America, 570 of which were addressed to members of the International Bar Association. 130 invitations were sent out to lawyers of Canada, 30 to lawyers of European countries, 220 to those of Russia (45 to IBA members), 5 to lawyers of Turkey, 22 to Armenian lawyers of Syria (5 to IBA members) and 43 invitations were sent out to Armenian lawyers of Lebanon (4 to IBA members).

According to the Press and Public Relations Department of the RA Ministry of Diaspora, hundreds of responses concerning holding of the First Pan-Armenian Forum of Lawyers and numerous applications for participation have already been received, particularly, as of July 13, 10 applications for participation were got from the United States, 10 from Russia, 7 applications were presented by Iranian Armenians, 6 applications by French Armenian lawyers and 24 applications for participation were presented from Armenia.

The goal of the forum is registration and consolidation of potential of the Armenian lawyers living in different countries of the world, working out of stable and effective mechanisms of involving them in the domestic life of Armenia, creation of the pan-Armenian association of lawyers and creation of a pan-Armenian professional network on that basis.

To participate in that forum, apply till September 1, to the RA Ministry of Diaspora: Vazgen Manukian, 26/1, 5th floor (tel.: 585601 (1-16), e-mail: lawyersforum2009@mindiaspora.am).



48. FROM 119 COMMUNITIES OF SHIRAK PROVINCE ONLY 3 ARE ENSURED WITH THE INTERNET LINK [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

All the 119 communities of Shirak province are ensured with the fixed and cell communications, but internet links have only 3 communities – Gyumri, Artik and Akhurian.

Head of the department of Local self governmental bodies of the Shirak Governor's office Karlen Abrahamian told Armenpress that in many cases the issue of not having the internet link comes for the heads of the communities. The heads of communities have been tasked to solve the issue if possible either present proposals to the governor's office.

Besides the modern telecommunication means all the communities are committed to have special panels for the installation of the decisions of the council of elders, government or for assignments ensuring the awareness of the residents.

49. DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER OF THIS YEAR THE EDUCATION AND SCIENCE MINISTRY GETS 1,543 APPLICATION-COMPLAINTS INSTEAD OF 2,475 OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

During the first semester of the running year the Armenian Education and Science Ministry has got 1,543 application-complaints.

Head of the general department of the Secretariat of the Ministry Gyulnara Hovhannisian told Armenpress that during the same period last year the Ministry has got 2,475 application-complaints. According to G. Hovhannisian it is conditioned by the circumstance that the beginning of the last year was the pre-election period of the Presidential elections and the residents handed their letters to Serzh Sargsian who visited different provinces of the republic. The letters were addressed to different Ministries among which the letters to the Education and Science Ministry was a great amount.

The majority of the application-complaints addressed to the Ministry are connected with the university affairs, particularly with the entering the University, tuition fee of the student, restoration of his/her rights, entrance examinations or retaking the exams.

People have applied to the Ministry also for entering a school, changing the school and complaints against the headmasters of schools.

G. Hovhannisian noted that very often people also apply for being employed as the Ministry supports the teachers to be employed in the bordering schools; in this issue the Ministry cooperates with the Governor's offices.

50. A PASSENGER PLANE IMPLEMENTING TEHRAN-YEREVAN FLIGHT CRASHES [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

A passenger plane implementing Tehran-Yerevan flight crashed near the town of Qazvin to the northwest from the capital Tehran.

Iranian IRNA News Agency reports that the airplane belongs to the Iranian "Caspian Airlines". The plane crashed at about 12:00 after 16 minutes of flight.

In all probability all the passengers died. Head of the Qazvin Emergency Situations Service Hussein Bohazadpur informed that the plane has entirely crashed and parts of it burnt.

Press officer of the Iranian Civil Aviation has stated that the Russian "TU" airplane was implementing the flight 7908 to Yerevan. According to the preliminary data there were 153 passengers in the plane and 16 members of the crew.

51. A COMMISSION FROM ARMENIA TO LEAVE FOR IRAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE CRASH OF THE AIRPLANE IMPLEMENTING TEHRAN-YEREVAN FLIGHT [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

In connection with the crash of the airplane implementing Tehran-Yerevan flight a commission will leave for Iran.

Press secretary of the head of the Armenian Rescue Service of Emergency Situations Ministry Nikolay Grigorian told Armenpress that it is not yet clear when the commission will leave and in what staff.

An official from the Armenian office of "Caspian Airlines" informed that at present the details of the accident and the list of passengers are clarified. On the preliminary data 153 passengers have died.

In connection with the crash a hotline operates in the Armenian Foreign Ministry. To get information Please call +37410562543, +37410566811, +37410544041 (inner 202 or 217).



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52. THERE WERE 19 ARMENIAN PASSENGERS IN THE CRASHED AIRPLANE [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

There were 19 Armenian passengers in the plane which crashed near the Iranian town of Qazvin 200km to the northwest from capital Tehran.

An official from Iranian Caspian Airlines told Armenpress that the majority of the remaining passengers were Iranians.

Press service of the Armenian Civil Aviation told Armenpress that there were 168 people in the plane. There is no cause in circulation for the crash of the airplane; studies are held in the place of the accident. Armenian civil aviation has established ties with the Iranian partners and a special head quarter has been created.

The airplane crashed at 12:00 after 16 minutes of flight. All the passengers have been killed.

53. A TEMPORARY HEADQUARTER OPERATES IN THE "ZVARTNOTS" AIRPORT PROVIDING PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL SUPPORT TO THE RELATIVES OF THE PASSENGERS OF THE AIRPLANE CRASHED IN IRAN [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

A temporary headquarter operates in the Yerevan "Zvartnots" airport to provide psychological and medical support to the relatives of the passengers of the airplane crashed in Iran.

An official from the department of aviation security of the Armenian Civil Aviation Department told Armenpress that there is a hotline "59.33.33" operating to provide information on the passengers of the crashed airplane.

54. THE PRESENTED DATA ON THE NUMBER OF THE ARMENIAN PASSENGERS IN THE CRASHED AIRPLANE ARE CONTROVERSIAL [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

The presented data on the number of the Armenian passengers in the airplane implementing Tehran-Yerevan flight and having crashed near the town of Qazvin to the northwest from the capital Tehran, are controversial up to now.

The Caspian Airlines to which the plane belonged, told Armenpress that the number of the Armenians in the plane was 19, and the press service of RA civil aviation noted about the presence of about 30 Armenians.

Public relations department of the Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry said that all the data on the number of the Armenians in the airplane will be soon issued.

55. ALEPPO GOVERNOR RECEIVES CHIEF CONSUL OF ARMENIA TO ALEPPO A. MANOUKYAN [ARMENPRESS, 07/15/09]

Aleppo Governor Ali Ahmad Mansora received July 13 Chief Council of Armenia to Aleppo Ashot Manukyan.

Press service of the Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that the Governor welcomed Ashot Manukyan's assignment in the office of the Chief Consul and expressed hope that he will work in a friendly country and among a friendly nation and will contribute to the development of aged relations between the Armenian and Arab nations.

A. Manukyan expressed gratitude to the Aleppo Governor for creating favorable conditions for Armenian national cultural-sport, patriotic organizations and educational centers.

SPORTS

56. TEAM TRAINED BY SERGIO MARGARIAN BECOMES CHILE CHAMPION [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

The Universidad football club of Chile, headed by Uruguayan Armenian coach Sergio Margarian became the champion of that country.

According to tert.am, Universidad won Union Espanol with a score of 1 to 0. Juan Manuel Olivera scored the only goal of the match on the 64th minute.

After becoming a champion Margarian thanked the God for the great success and announced about his resignation from the post of the coach.

The Uruguayan Armenian coach became the Universidad coach last December.



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57. ANDRE AGASSI AGAIN TO PERFORM [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/13/09]

Famous tennis player Andre Agassi will for the first time perform after 5-year interruption, by taking part in the Tennis Team Championship of America, in the Philadelphia Freedoms team staff. Marmara states that he has already participated in similar competitions in 2002-2004. Every team involves a former tennis star in its staff. Michael Chang, Kim Clijsters, Anna Kournikova, John McEnroe, Martina Navratilova will also participate in this competitions to take place among the ten clubs. Modern tennis stars sisters Williams and Maria Sharapova are also invited to the competition.

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