



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, July 31, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. ACCORDING TO BORIS TADIC, VISIT OF SERBIAN DELEGATION TO ARMENIA REPRESENTS NEW BEGINNING OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan will accept the invitation of Turkish President Abdullah Gul only in case of the fulfillment of the agreements reached and the visibility of real steps. "That is, I will leave for Turkey if we have an open border or we are on the threshold of lifting Armenia's blockade," he stated in the July 28 statement for the mass media during the two-day visit of Serbian President Boris Tadic to Armenia.

According to S. Sargsyan, he told his Serbian counterpart about the developments that followed his initiative aimed at normalizing the Armenian-Turkish relations, as well as about the details of the current stage. "You know that little time remains till the return match of the national football teams of Armenia and Turkey, and I received an invitation to attend this match from Turkish President Mr. Gul. Under the current conditions, we certainly expect to witness constructive steps soon, by which our partners will try to ensure a respective environment for the return visit of the Armenian president," S. Sargsyan said.

Speaking about the Armenian-Serbian relations, he noted that his tete-a-tete talk with the Serbian president passed in a constructive atmosphere of mutual understanding, during which they discussed the current state and prospects of relations between the two countries and exchanged opinions about a number of issues of international and regional importance and the cooperation in international organizations.

"The promotion of the political dialog, the establishment and strengthening of interparliamentary links, the development of trade and economic relations between Armenia and Serbia are essential elements of our relations based on partnership," S. Sargsyan said. In his words, he together with the Serbian president came to the same conclusion that the regional conflicts should be settled without the use of force, peacefully and through negotiations, based on the principles and norms of international law. "We are convinced of the absence of universal forms of conflict resolution. Each conflict has its origin, motivations and process. Without taking them into consideration, it is impossible to find a fair and stable solution," he added.

S. Sargsyan said that the Armenian and Serbian peoples have maintained friendly relations with each other over the centuries. Serbia was a country to receive open-heartedly numerous Armenians who had survived the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, in particular, the Izmir massacres in 1922. "Our people also remember with gratitude the material and moral help of the friendly Serbian people following the 1988 destructive earthquake. We will always revere the memory of the Serbian pilots bringing humanitarian aid to Armenia, who died in the name of a high goal, when lending a helping hand to the friendly people at a fatal moment," S. Sargsyan said.

Boris Tadic in his turn declared that only a peaceful policy such as the policy conducted by the Serbs in the Balkans and that conducted by the Armenians in the Caucasus can bring a lasting peace to the two peoples. He called the visit of the Serbian delegation to Armenia "a new beginning of the friendly relations" and invited his Armenian counterpart to pay a visit to Serbia.

On the first day of his two-day visit, Boris Tadic went to the Memorial Complex of the Armenian Genocide Victims.

2. SERZH SARGSYAN: "TODAY'S GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION OBLIGES TO GIVE NEW QUALITY TO RELATIONS BETWEEN ARMENIA AND SERBIA" [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

President of the Republic of Serbia Boris Tadic arrived on two-day official visit in Yerevan on July 28, by President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan's invitation. The official ceremony of greeting the high-ranking guest took place at the RA President's residence. It was followed by S. Sargsyan's and B. Tadic's private conversation.

According to the information of the RA President's Press Office, the official delegations' meeting in enlarged staff took place then, with the Presidents' participation.

S. Sargsyan mentioned that today's geopolitical situation not only provides possibility but also obliges to give new quality to the two countries' relations. He stated that Armenia is willing to make



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friends with Serbia and makes efforts on that way. S. Sargsyan proposed to activate the spiritual-cultural ties, mentioning that it will pave a good way to reveal possibilities of cooperation in different spheres.

B. Tadic welcomed S. Sargsyan's proposal, saying that corresponding departments will be given instructions to start activities in that direction, and the first results will be already obvious during the visit to be paid by the President of Armenia to Serbia.

The parties also speak about the ways of cooperation in the sphere of transport communication, economy, mentioning that the economic element will greatly stimulate development of the Armenian-Serbian ties.

B. Tadic said that Serbia intends to open in future an Embassy in Armenia for the Ambassador officiating at Athens residence assists development of the Armenian-Serbian relations.

S. Sargsyan and B. Tadic also exchanged opinions about the problems existing in the regions of Caucasus and Balkan and ways of their solution, bilaterally expressing opinion that they can and must be solved only through negotiations and peaceful processes.

3. FORMER ARMENIAN CONSUL IN LOS ANGELES ARRESTED [Azg, 07/29/09]

The following five people were arrested on July 28 in the U.S.: Norair Ghalumian, 52, of Burbank, the Armenian consul in Los Angeles from 1999 through 2003, Hakop Hovanesyan, 54, of Glendale, a former employee at the Armenian Consulate in Los Angeles and current operator of Regency Travel in Glendale, Margarita Mkrtchyan, 41, of Glendale, Oganeg Nardos, 36, of Valencia, a substance abuse counselor, Elvis Madatyan, 47, of Glendale. Later N. Ghalumian and another three persons arrested with him were released with a pledge. And of the arrested, who has never been a Consulate employee, was not released even with a pledge.

They have been arrested on charges that they sold official letters to illegal immigrants. These letters state that a country will not issue a travel document for a particular individual. They helped them avoid deportation. According to proper American bodies, part of citizens receiving forged documents are accused of crimes.

In connection with the incident RA Foreign Ministry Acting Spokesperson Tigran Balayan reported to Radio Liberty that the news is being checked, and they will provide additional information later.

According to Radio Liberty's information, American law enforcers have attended to the investigation of this case for several years. An FBI agent was involved in the suspects' environment. He periodically provided information to investigators investigating the case.

4. KHACHATUR SUKIASIAN NOT GOING TO PRESENT HIMSELF TO AUTHORITIES BY JULY 31 [Aravot, 07/29/09]

RA National Assembly deputy Khachatur Sukiasian being searched for is not going to present himself to the authorities by 2009 July 31 as he is more than convinced of his innocence and has no doubt that justice will win after all. A July 29 statement by K. Sukiasian and his lawyers Artur Grigorian and Ara Zakarian read.

According to K. Sukiasian, he has no problem with presenting himself to the authorities as he has committed no crime, besides, he is not deprived of deputy immunity. "I do not think that there will be a person in Armenia, who will prove any fact that I have committed a crime," the deputy said.

And K. Sukiasian's lawyers consider that the process undertaken by international structures, in particular, by PACE, has not been brought to its logical end yet and the adoption of the amnesty act by the authorities in itself does not mean and cannot be commented as a complete fulfillment of the commitments they have towards Mr Sukiasian and his partners. According to the lawyers, the issue of completely stopping political persecutions to obviously innocent persons will be sooner or later set before the authorities.

5. BORIS TADIC VISITS MEMORIAL TO THE YUGOSLAVIAN PILOTS KILLED WHILE RUSHING TO HELP DURING 1988 EARTHQUAKE IN SPITAK [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

President of Serbia Boris Tadic, who was in Armenia on an official visit, accompanied by the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan and Governor of Armavir Ashot Ghahramyan put flowers and a wreath on the memorial to the 7 Yugoslavian pilots who were killed while rushing to help during the 1988 Spitak disastrous earthquake.

Architect of the monument Ishkhan Torosyan in a short conversation with B. Tadic expressed his gratitude to the Yugoslavian people for their help during the 1988 earthquake.



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6. SERBIAN PRESIDENT BORIS TADIC'S VISIT TO ARMENIA FINISHES [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

The farewell ceremony of Serbian President Boris Tadic took place on July 29 at RA President's residence. He had arrived in Armenia on an official visit.

According to a report by the RA President's Press Office, before the farewell the two countries' heads summed up the visit.

7. REGULAR MONITORING OF NAGORNO KARABAKH AND AZERI ARMED FORCES CONTACT-LINE TO BE CARRIED OUT ON AUGUST 4 [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

The Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office has applied to the Nagorno Karabakh Republic leadership with the request to assist implementation of the monitoring of NKR and Azeri armed forces contact-line scheduled for August 4 near the NKR Martakert region's populated area of Talish.

According to the NKR Foreign Ministry Press Service, OSCE Office Coordinator, Lieutenant-Colonel Imre Palatinus (Hungary) and Field Assistant to the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Vladimir Chuntulov (Bulgaria) will carry out the monitoring from the positions of the NKR Defence Army. Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk will carry out the monitoring from the opposite side.

Representatives of the NKR Foreign Ministry and Defence Ministry will accompany the monitoring mission on the part of Karabakh.

8. K. BEKARIAN SAYS IN THE ISSUE OF REGULATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS ARMENIA DEFINITELY DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN THE IMITATION STEPS AND REAL PROCEDURES [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

Armenia has definitely formulated its approach towards the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations and distinguishes between the imitation and background steps and real procedures. During today's press conference the head of the "European Integration" NGO Karen Bekarian stressed that the Armenian President's July 28 statement on the Armenian-Turkish relations confirms that no matter how praiseworthy are the steps sometimes conducted by Turkey towards the creation of an atmosphere making the continuation of the dialogue but the attempt to substitute the reached agreements with these steps creating an imitation background will not be of success.

"In the nearest period such steps are not excluded; they will be welcomed but never substituted with real actions," K Bekarian said reminding the statement of Turkish state Minister according to which the Armenian Church on the Akhtamar Island will become functioning, a cross will be fixed, which besides the expression of a good will would also have a great role in boosting tourism.

According to K. Bekarian, the Turkish side tries to ascribe the initiative of the Armenian side which later on acquired "Football diplomacy" formulation to it and privatize it.

He said that Turkey undoubtedly is concerned with the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations. Turkey needs it not less than Armenia. Turkey has great expectations conditioned by the Euro integration process and membership to the structure. This state needs regulation of relations from political and economic viewpoints to ensure its image and dominant position in the region.

According to the head of the NGO the region has quite great prospects of development connected with the communication ways, transportation of hydrocarbons. The Armenian-Turkish absent relations and close borders impede the normal development of the region and in this respect Turkey feels rather a great pressure from the USA.

Contrary to that Turkey does not wish to lose Azerbaijan with its oil opportunities conditioned by the "one nation two states" statement.

Nevertheless Turkey will try to move towards the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations utmost preserving its interests.

9. KAREN BEKARIAN SAYS DECLASSIFICATION OF MADRID PRINCIPLES HAS SEVERAL MAIN MESSAGES [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

Declassification of the "Madrid" principles of the Karabakh conflict regulation has several main messages. The co-chairing countries wished to address message to Azerbaijan – stop lying own people, head of the "European Integration" NGO Karen Bekarian said at today's press conference, explaining that



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the declassification is directed to the publics for them to know the format of the negotiations and main points.

According to him, viewing the declassification of Madrid principles it becomes clear which public is more frank: the Azerbaijani side has disoriented its own public by its statements. Besides, the co-chairing sides wished to show that the parties must not inspire hopes that the mediators have issues among them and that non-efficiency of the negotiations is agreed with it.

Referring to the regular statements of the US co-chair Matthew Bryza which are made citing Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Bekarian said that I. Aliyev has created an impression among the international community that he has a great issue of working with public and has a need of additional support and assistance that is why different officials of different countries assume role of a supporter like Matthew Bryza as an expected ambassador to Baku. He said Bernard Fassier is the only one of the co-chairs who will continue working and will remain the core which will gather the further activity around him.

10. FIRST SESSION OF THE DM-AFFILIATED PUBLIC COUNCIL HELD [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

First session of the RA Defense Minister affiliated public council took place today in the administrative building of Armenian Defense Ministry.

Press secretary of the Defense Ministry, colonel S. Shahuvarian told Armenpress that greeting the guests and referring to the aims and issues of establishment of the council Seyran Ohanian noted that with the activity of the council the society-army ties will further strengthen, the involvement of the society in the increase of the defensibility of the society at the same time boosting the cooperation between the Defense Ministry, NGOs and RA citizens.

Following to that the Defense Minister presented some details about the military service and everyday life to the members of the council. During the session the participants made proposals; issues connected with the further activity of the council and its prospects have been discussed. Gegham Harutyunian has been elected chairperson of the council.

11. 281 CONVICTS SET FREE [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

By the June 19 decision of the Armenian National Assembly on declaring amnesty, as of today, 281 convicted have been set free.

Press service of the Justice Ministry's Criminal-Executive Department told Armenpress that 51 convicts have been set free from "Nubarashen" criminal-executive establishment, 24 from "Artik", 19 from "Vanadzor", six from "Goris", 62 convicts from "Erebuni" criminal-executive establishment, 27 from "Sevan", 1 from Yerevan-Kentron, 3 from "Kosh", 25 from "Vardashen".

Seven convicts have been set free from the "Hospital of Convicts", six from "Hrazdan", 9 from "Meghri". Number of women convicts released from "Abovian" criminal-executive establishment is 8, from teenager's department 3 and other three from the open criminal execution establishment.

12. ARMENIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN UN IS SURE THAT OSCE MINSK GROUP WILL REMAIN THE ONLY MEDIATING BODY IN NKR CONFLICT REGULATION [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

The negotiations over Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation pass within the frameworks of OSCE Minsk group. Azerbaijan has expressed readiness to continue the negotiations within the frameworks of Minsk group as well.

"I am sure that soon OSCE Minsk group will remain the only mediating body", - the Armenian permanent representative in UN Armen Martirosyan pointed out commenting with the request of Armenpress on the information spread by Azerbaijani media that 2 issues on NKR conflict will be discussed in the 64-th session of UN General Assembly on the themes of "Long-lasting conflicts in the territories of GUAM countries and their consequences on peace, security and development of the whole world" and "The situation in the Azerbaijani occupied territories".

A. Martirosyan noted that, nevertheless, the discussion of the issue in another institution is the right of any member of GUAM, especially that the resolutions of the General Assembly do not have legal, political force and meaning, aren't obligatory for implementation.

According to UN Charter, the agenda of the general Assembly is being confirmed on the first day of the session. The 64-th session of General Assembly is to take place in September.



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13. PRESIDENT OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATES IN GRADUATION CEREMONY OF VAZGEN SARGSYAN MILITARY INSTITUTE [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 07/30/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan was present today at the event dedicated to the 15th anniversary of establishment of the Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute and graduation ceremony of the graduates. The event was organized in the Republican square.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the President handed to the excellent graduates certificates, watched the march of the graduates.

The president also addressed a welcoming speech to the graduates.

14. PRESIDENT SARGSYAN TO LEAVE FOR BISHKEK [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan is leaving July 31 for Bishkek to participate in the non-official summit of the heads of the CSTO member countries, presidential press service told Armenpress.

15. D. SHAHNAZARYAN SAYS OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRMEN STARTED WORKING ON THE GREAT CONTRACT IN KRAKOW [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

The co-chairmen of OSCE Minsk group have started working on the great contract on Karabakh conflict regulation at Krakow meeting, representative of Armenian National Congress Davit Shahnazaryan said at today's meeting with journalists, adding that the "Madrid Principles" is a passed round.

According to him, the vivid evidence of it is that the co-chairmen expressed gratitude to Robert Kocharyan and Vardan Oskanyan after the Krakow meeting. In his opinion, very serious agreements have been reached at the Moscow meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents. "The evidence is the statement of the European Union which welcomed the Moscow meeting of the Presidents and its results, as well as the readiness of the European Commission to integrated to the negotiation process", - D. Shahnazaryan noted.

16. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT VISITS DEFENSE MINISTRY [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

After the graduation ceremony of the graduates of the Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan paid a working visit to the Armenian Defense Ministry.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the Supreme General Commander of Armenia listened to the reports of those responsible for the sphere presented reports and received assignments.

17. ARMENIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES THE REPRESENTATIVE OF UN FAO [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan received today representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Maha Ahmed on the occasion of handing her credentials.

Media department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that Minister Nalbandyan expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Ahmed for the support to Armenia by the UN FAO.

Maha Ahmed highly assessed the cooperation of the Armenian government and the UN FAO and presented the programs indicated for Armenia.

18. SERZH SARGSYAN: "THERE MUST BE NO PRE-CONDITIONS IN 21ST CENTURY: ANY PRE-CONDITION AND TOUGH ATTITUDE AROUSES CONFRONTATION" [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

"For the normalization of relations with Turkey we did our best – stretched the hand of good will. In spite of the problems during the history, and the committed Genocide, in spite of the difficult way we found strength in us and suggested Turkish leadership establish diplomatic relations without pre-conditions, open borders and then discuss any issue which we will find important," President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan said today at the meeting in Sevan with the young people from Diaspora who are in Armenia within the framework of the "Come Home" program of the Diaspora Ministry.

"During a whole year we negotiated in a very favorable environment, without any pre-conditions, we have agreed over two documents but after that certain Turkish leaders started forwarding pre-conditions and tie Armenian-Turkish relations with Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Armenian-Azerbaijani relations," Serzh Sargsyan said, responding to the wish of a young man from Turkey on establishment of good relations with Turkey.



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“Of course we cannot accept any pre-condition. We realize very well that Turkey is a powerful state, we know the role of Turkey in our region and the world, but on the other hand we must accept that we are Armenians, we are an independent state and now is the 21st century – any tough attitude arouses confrontation. I am very happy that living in Turkey many-many Armenians are trying to preserve their language, managed to preserve their identity and stronger the Armenia will become, greater success it will have the Armenian spirit will become more powerful in Turkey and other countries of the world. This is one of our goals,” the president said.

19. RA GOVERNMENT DISAPPROVES A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES BY DEPUTIES ARMEN MARTIROSIAN AND VIKTOR DALLAKIAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/30/09]

The RA government at the July 30 session disapproved the RA bill On Making Amendments and Addenda to the RA Electoral Code submitted by RA National Assembly deputy Armen Martirosian by the order of legislative initiative and substantiated its conclusion.

The RA government also spoke against the RA bills submitted by RA National Assembly deputy Viktor Dallakian by the order of legislative initiative: the package of RA laws On Making an Amendment and Addenda to the RA Law On Mass Media and to the RA Criminal Code, On Making an Amendment to the RA law On Operative-Investigation Activity, On Making Addenda to the RA Law On National Security Bodies, On Making an Amendment to the RA Law On RA Budget System substantiating its negative conclusions.

According to a report by the RA government Information and Public Relations Department, the government did not present an objection of principle on another legislative initiative by V. Dallakian, RA bill On Making an Amendment to the RA Law On Civil Service by proposing editorial changes. The above mentioned bills will be submitted to the RA National Assembly in the established order.

20. ARTAK ZAKARIAN APPOINTED HEAD OF RA MINISTRY OF DIASPORA STAFF WITH THREE-MONTH PROBATION PERIOD [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/30/09]

By a decision made at the RA government's July 30 session Artak Zakarian was appointed Head of the RA Ministry of Diaspora Staff with a three-month probation period. Noyan Tapan was informed about it by the RA government Information and Public Relations Department.

21. P. HAYRIKIAN SAYS THE INTERNALIZATION OF THE NKR ISSUE IS A POSITIVE PHENOMENON WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUE [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

The Madrid document is a subsequent round of proposals which means nothing, leader of the National Self Determination Union Paruyr Hayrikian during today's press conference said the.

According to him, no one signed any agreement and the evoked hysteria arouses wonder in me. “These are one of the subsequent proposals. It is surprising that the sponsor of the hysteria, Levon Ter-Petrosian is yet silent,” the NSDU leader said.

According to him, there is a positive point in the Madrid principals; compared with a number of international structures here Armenia is not presented as an occupant, there is no remark on it.

He said on the negotiation table besides the Artsakh self determination issue Armenia must also raise the Nakhijevan issue.

“The Artsakh issue must by all means be regarded from the self determination standpoint and it is not only a sub-national issue. The Artsakh issue was imposed on us by Moscow in 1920 by presenting Artsakh to Azerbaijan,” P. Hayrikian said.

According to him, the Nagorno Karabakh is at present in the same situation as in 1994, “that's to say the danger always exists”.

P. Hayrikian said that the fact that the Nagorno Karabakh issue is internationalized is a positive phenomenon which will contribute to equitable settlement of the issue.

22. T. MANASERIAN SAYS THE WORLD RECESSION IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERCOME ALONE AND WITHOUT A COMPLEX PROGRAM [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

Armenia as well as any other state is unable to overcome the crisis alone and without a complex program, said the consultant to the NA Speaker, economist Tatoul Manaserian to journalists today.



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According to him, in the nearest future Armenia needs a new “Marshal plan” which must be agreed with the neighboring states. He stressed the importance of the regional development if not multilateral, but at least in bilateral format at the initial period.

He said long time will be needed to overcome the consequences of the world crisis as well as to definitely draft the path through which the state will pass its way of development.

“The issue of Armenia is not only the world crisis but the settlement of issues existing within our economy. This situation is also characteristic to the other states of the world,” T. Manaserian noted.

The economist said that despite the positive tendencies noted during a few latest weeks the impact of the crisis on several branches deepens. Intensification of the consumers’ market is noted in the USA and some layers of the European states but the Governments have not yet succeeded to find all the treatments for bringing the economies out of the crisis.

According to him the preservation of high prices for certain products and services in the conditions of the crisis is unnatural. The economist predicted a two-figured index for the economic fall in Armenia by the end of the year.

T. Manaserian noted that yet it is difficult to definitely say on what round the process of overcoming of the world economic crisis is, as there is no diagnosis and the main reasons of the crisis are not clear yet.

BUSINESS

23. JAPANESE SHIMIDZU CORPORATION CARRIES OUT WORK AT NUBARASHEN DUMP FOR REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

Shimidzu Corporation (Japan) is carrying out work at Nubarashen dump for reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases. NT correspondent was informed by Head of the Municipal Economy Department of Yerevan Municipality Gagik Khachatrian that the refuse layer leveling and well boring work has been completed. The methane will be piped to the combustion chamber where it will turn into carbon dioxide. The first phase of the work will finish in late August.

To recap, an agreement on the production of biogas at Nubarashen dump was signed between the Yerevan Municipality and Shimidzu Corporation in March. It is envisaged receiving energy by burning the methane emitted from the dump. By preliminary estimates, the Japanese corporation will invest 5.5 million dollars into the project.

24. 563 ORGANIZATIONS AND 605 INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING TAXI SERVICES OPERATE IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

There are currently 563 licensed organizations with a total of 6,792 vehicles and 605 individuals providing taxi services in Armenia. Spokeswoman for the RA Ministry of Transport and Communication Susanna Tonoyan told NT correspondent that in the period of November 2008 to July 2009, the ministry's licensing unit granted licences to 151 taxi service providing organizations with 2,309 vehicles. 605 private taxi service providers received licences in the indicated period.

S. Tonoyan said that the number of applications filed by taxi service organizations and individuals has considerably declined in recent period. According to her, in November 2008 the Ministry in cooperation with the RA Police tightened control to prevent the illegal transportation of passengers and regulate the licensing of taxi services. This process is continuing.

It should be mentioned that under the amendments to the RA Law on State Duty, the individuals providing taxi services must be obliged to pay the full amount of taxes. They shall pay 25 thousand drams (about 67 dollars) a year instead of the previous 200 thousand drams.

25. SESSION OF IT DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT COUNCIL TAKES PLACE [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

Session of the IT Development Support Council took place today chaired by the president of the council Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that the council discussed the pace of implementation of assignments approved during the previous one which was presented by the Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan and heads of task groups.

The participants particularly discussed the issue on facilitation of process of defining of business of the newly created companies of the IT sphere. They were also informed that a state commission has



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been formed for the organization of annual contest on best manager of IT sphere. The commission is at present developing standards on the basis of which the best ones will be selected.

Head of the "IT Foundation" NGO Garegin Chukaszyan said that they have worked out "Electronic Content" concept and a concrete program of activities. The council was also informed that the works on applying "Electronic Management" concept go on and the program of prior events in that direction is being cleared out.

The council also discussed the package of reforms in customs legislature and administration within the frameworks of which director of the Union of IT Enterprises Karen Vardanyan completed the list of the issues over which negotiations are being held with the customs institutions.

For making the cooperation more effective Armenian Prime Minister suggested to create a task group.

Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan informed that for promotion of IT sphere and making it more available for public a conference will be organized in autumn.

26. IFC SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF HYPOTHEC MARKET IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

International Financial Corporation of World Bank Group called today the first session of the task group set up in Armenia for increasing the availability of apartment financing. The activity of the task group formed by the Central Bank will be directed towards revealing obstacles for development of primary and secondary hypothec markets, implementation of legislative reforms, improvement of national crediting standards as well as presentation and applying of best international experience.

An official from the Armenian office of IFC told Armenpress that some of the participants of the group, including IFC and KfW representatives presented for the discussion their international experience on hypothec financing. The task group consists of representatives of IFC, WB, Armenian Central Bank, German KfW bank, USAID and other interested banks and financial establishments.

Chairman of the Armenian Central Bank Arthur Javadyan underscored the support of the IFC for the initiative of promotion of the hypothec financing program and noted that Central Bank highly underscores active involvement of IFC in the process of development prior and secondary hypothec markets in Armenia.

IFC experts from Indonesia, Russia and USA presented to the trade banks those market and legal conditions which are necessary for the effective activity of operators of secondary hypothec market of Armenia.

27. A. VARUDAKIS SAYS ARMENIA NOT TO HAVE PROBLEMS IN SUPPLY OF EXTERNAL DEBTS IN CASE OF THE IMPROVEMENT OF TAX ADMINISTRATION [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

"In the upcoming years, when tendencies of restoration in Armenian economy be notable, and the volume of tax collection grows, Armenian government will be able to pay the state debts. Armenia will not have problems in supply of external debts in case of the improvement of tax administration," head of the Yerevan office of the World Bank Aristomene Varudakis said at today's briefing with the journalists during his visit to the Armenian province of Armavir.

According to him, Armenia had less external debt before the crisis. It enabled the government to acquire foreign debts more daringly in the crisis conditions, which, by the specialist's assessment, was a right policy.

The means involved from international institutions, according to A. Varudakis, are sufficient for the Armenian government to cover the gap of the budget 2009. Those means will enable to finance the budget gap expected for 2010 as well.

It is expected that the size of external debts will abruptly grow, and in 2010-13 GDP-external debt relation will make 45%. But A. Varudakis notes that this isn't a troublesome index; in case of conducting a right tax policy, the external debt will decrease making the 30 percent of GDP.

Referring to the Armenian macro-economic indexes, the specialist noted that by the end of the year the economic fall will be less, than it has been up to now and will make 9-11%.

28. THE ARMENIAN-CHINESE RUBBER FACTORY BEING CONSTRUCTED IN CHINA EXPECTED TO BE EXPLOITED AT THE END OF THIS YEAR [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 07/30/09]

The Armenian-Chinese rubber factory being constructed in China on nearly 100 hectares of territory is intended to be exploited at the end of this year.



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Vice Director of “Nairit-2” factory Albert Sukiasian told Armenpress that the crisis made no changes in the projects. There will also be no issues in realization of the factory product.

At present local testing and checking is being held in the factory, technical and other issues are revealed. The checking is followed by already finished construction works. After the entire testing the factory will be exploited.

According to A. Sukiasian, the total cost of the construction of the Armenian-Chinese factory reaches more than \$140 million. Armenia is 40% shareholder of the factory, China – 60%. The main Armenian investment in this project is the mental property in respect of the new technologies of the rubber production which ensure high production security and few wastes.

A. Sukiasian stressed the importance of the implementation of rich Chinese experience during the production. The Armenian technologies of rubber production have been inputted and implemented in Armenia yet in 1993-1994.

The factory is expected to produce nearly 30,000 tons of rubber annually. A. Sukiasian said that there are also prospects of increase of the output volumes depending upon the demand. The product of the factory must entirely be consumed in China, where there is a limitless market.

29. ZANGEZOUR COPPER-MOLYBDENUM FACTORY CONTINUES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT DIRECTED TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

The Zangezour copper-molybdenum factory continues its uninterrupted activity as well as the projects directed towards the development preserving the positions of the leader no matter the world financial economic crisis.

An official from the factory told Armenpress that all these became possible thanks to the business and investment policy, financial support of the shareholders as well as the realization policy of the German “Chronimet” mother concern in the world market.

All the works of the factory are today entirely preserved and the salaries paid on time. The continuative assistance of the Armenian Government also greatly contributed to the sustainable development of the factory, supported the implementation of social projects and preservation of the job places.

Already reached successes, increase of the productivity as a result of technical rearmament as well as the increase of the prices for metal in the world market created an opportunity to design and implement the further investments.

Particularly the construction of the biggest grind of the mine stone in the region due to which the volumes of the re-processing of the factory will reach 14 million tons annually is intended to be finished in 2010.

These projects will enable the company to fortify its leading stance in the world market.

In 2004 the factory shareholders approved the investment project of more than \$200 million towards the modernization of the factory, increase of the productivity, and enhancement of the volumes of re-processing of the minerals up to 12.5 million tons annually.

The investment project has been successfully implemented and finished in October 2008.

30. ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS NEGOTIATIONS WITH ADB OVER CONSTRUCTION OF NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

Government of Armenia is conducting negotiations with the Asian Development Bank over the project on construction of north-south highway.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said today at the session of the government that the bank has expressed readiness to start the implementation of works over the project as soon as possible.

Armenian prime minister tasked deputy territorial governance minister Vache Terteryan to work with the Transport and Communication Minister Gurgen Sargsyan so that the roads, which must be expanded and become prior, be specified. The issue must be discussed at the coming sessions of ministerial committees and presented for approval to the next session of the government.

31. NEGOTIATIONS ON CONSTRUCTION OF ARMENIA-IRAN RAILWAY COMPLETED [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/30/09]

Progress has been made in the issue of the new Yerevan-Batumi motorway construction. RA Minister of Transport and Communication Gurgen Sargsyan told reporters on July 29 that they together with the deputy chairman of the Asian Development Bank have discussed issues related to the credit to



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be provided for the motorway's construction. A credit agreement is being prepared which will resolve the financial problems of South-North highway's construction. According to the minister, they are conducting negotiations with other organizations as well in order to involve them in the highway construction's funding.

G. Sargsyan said the feasibility study on the highway construction is now being carried out with a grant of the Asian Development Bank. "The study will enable to start the design work which will allow us to speak about the exact costs of the first road sections. This project cannot be completed in a year because the matter concerns a highway to run throughout Armenia. We expect it to be a high quality road," the minister underlined.

Speaking about the construction of Armenia-Iran railway, G. Sargsyan noted that the negotiations have already been completed. An agreement is in preparation, by which a grant will be allocated for a feasibility study on the railway construction.

32. WORLD BANK APPROVES IRRIGATION REHABILITATION EMERGENCY PROJECT FOR ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/30/09]

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a 30 million-dollar Irrigation Rehabilitation Emergency Project for Armenia, Head of the World Bank Armenia Office Aristomene Varudakis announced during the July 29 press conference. The main canals in Armavir and Talin regions will be restored under the project. "The main canals 84 km in length will be repaired, thanks to which water losses will be reduced by 70 thousand cubic meters and lands of the total area of 7,300 ha can be irrigated," he said.

Besides, according to him, the project will contribute to the creation of nearly 9,000 man-month jobs, and by its completion about 39 thousand water users in 73 communities will be direct beneficiaries of the rehabilitation project.

The project-envisaged work will start in November 2009. The project will be financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and will finish until June, 2011.

As regards the cooperation of the World Bank and the Projects Implementation Office, A. Varudakis considered it efficient. The 15 years of joint work have resulted in a considerable growth of irrigated lands and the introduction of most efficient irrigation technologies, including gravity irrigation system not requiring energy.

33. SURVEYS TO BE CONDUCTED IN ARMENIA TO FIND OUT THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC CRISIS ON THE HOUSE ECONOMIES [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

With the support of the UN Armenian office the RA Government will conduct surveys to find out the consequences of the impact of the world financial-economic crisis on 4,248 families selected on different standards.

In connection with it today a document has been signed in the RA Labor and Social Affairs Ministry between the Ministry, UN Armenian office and RA National Statistic Service. It was signed by the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Gevorg Petrosyan, UN permanent coordinator Consuelo Vidal and the head of RA National Statistic Service Stepan Mnatsakanian.

G. Petrosyan noted that the economic crisis challenges the economies of all states of the world including Armenia. Affecting the economy it first of all threatens the vulnerable sections. The Minister stressed the importance of the steps towards mitigation the impact of the crisis noting that they will be more efficient if there is a holistic idea about different sections of population.

The Minister said that the study will carry a continuative character and the process will permanently be kept in the spotlight of the attention of the ministry.

According to C. Vidal the survey will be a firm ground for the works implemented during the upcoming 6 years within the frameworks of UNDP directed towards the vulnerable sections of population – unemployed, children, disabled, aged people, and refugees.

The preparatory works of the surveys have already kicked off; the final result will be ready to issue in November. The Armenian office of the UN World Food Program, UN Population, Children's and International Monetary Funds are involved in the process of researches.



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34. TIGRAN SARGSYAN SAYS WORK IMPLEMENTED BY OVERSIGHT CHAMBER IS VERY USEFUL WHILE WORKING OUT 2010 DRAFT BUDGET [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

“The work implemented by the Oversight Chamber is very useful while working out 2010 state draft budget. In this respect we have an important work to do,” Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said today at the session of the government.

According to him, the violations, flaws, abuses registered during the past years hint the place where we have potential for economizing financial means. “At the same time we registered that commitments have already been assumed connected with already disclosed violations. Unfortunately, it has been registered that those means have not been completely restored. I ask all the stakeholders which have dealt with the conclusions of the Oversight Chamber, are acquainted with the reports, undertake all the necessary measures to restore and return the total sums,” the prime minister said, informing that they may receive detailed information from the Oversight Chamber or the staff of the government.

DIASPORA

35. PUPILS OF ARMENIAN SCHOOL OF SPAIN TAKE PART IN "HOLIDAY IN THE NAME OF PEACE" PROJECT [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

It is already the fifth year that the pupils of Armenian Ararat Union's school of Spain take part in the "Holiday in the Name of Peace" project organized by Mislata International Humanitarian Union (AHUIM) within the framework of which every year excursions to Acuarama and Terra Mistica (Mysterious World) are held.

The organizer of the event AHUIM every year invites children suffering from various diseases from Sahara to Spain who not only have their holiday in this country but also get the necessary treatment which seem to be impossible in their countries. Armenian children are also included in this project thanks to the exact social-cultural policy and permanent relations of Ararat Armenian union with other unions.

According to the Union, 14 best pupils took part in the excursion to Acuarama and returned with unforgettable memories.

36. “COME HOME” PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS MEET WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN, VISIT PARAJANOV'S AND HOVHANNES TOUMANIAN'S HOUSE-MUSEUM [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

The July 28 agenda of the Come Home program was very busy and full of many surprises. There was an unusual activity at Yerevan School 168 after Vazgen I. World boxing champions Vakhtang Darchinian and Susi Kentikian waited for the Diasporan Armenian young people after the regular course on the Study of Native Land subject held for participants of the Come Home program. RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian invited them to go to school with her.

The school administration organized a special reception: the guests were accompanied to the school hall with the traditional Armenian hospitality. The hall was completely full of not only Diasporan Armenian young people but also of many guests. The guests were greeted by school Director Sona Galstian who expressed her gratitude to the RA Minister of Diaspora and Armenian champions on the occasion of visiting the school. Then the school pupils presented nice dancing and reciting performances.

The RA Minister of Diaspora warmly greeted the Diasporan Armenian boys and girls and wished them always to have victories in their life like Susi and Vakhtang. She emphasized that the champions of the Armenian origin reached those successes setting themselves an object, owing to their everyday hard work. The Minister called on that every Armenian, like Vakhtang, keep the honor of the Armenian flag high, devotes himself to the Armenian, Armenians and Armenia. Then Hranush Hakobian handed diplomas of the Ministry of Diaspora to Vakhtang Darchinian and Susi Kentikian for assisting development of the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation, keeping high the rating of the Armenian sport and an Armenian on the international scene.

The young people from Armenian and Diasporan Armenians who were present at the hall addressed the questions they were interested in to the champions of the Armenian origin. If the questions given to Vakhtang related to his sporting career and future programs, questions given to Susi were of more private character. Susi, particularly, mentioned that she started going in for boxing when she was 12. She also confessed that she is not going to marry yet. At the request of the trainer of the boxing group



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functioning at School 168, Vakhtang told beginner boxers his formula of reaching success: "Victory is possible only owing to hard work."

According to hayernaysor.am, on the same day there was a surprise for the Diasporan Armenians at the African Pandok (inn) as well. The tiredness from the hot summer of Yerevan was immediately forgotten when the nice cake decorated with flaming candles was brought in: it was the 17th birthday of Aylin Traiean arrived from Egypt, on the occasion of what the friends from the Come Home program prepared that surprise.

The second half of the day was cultural. Sergei Parajanov's house-museum where the boys and girls got acquainted with the great artist's life and activity, closely saw the canvases and original collages created by him, was too impressive for the program participants. By the way, Armenian young people arrived from Georgia and Ukraine were well informed about the great artist's work as Sergei Parajanov lived and created in those countries for a long time.

The other cultural hearth visited by the Come Home 2009 participants was Hovhannes Toumanian's house-museum where they walked through the halls accompanied by the museum employees, got acquainted with the daily routine and life details of "His Holiness Armenian Poet." The box decorated with sculptures fixed on the wall of one of the rooms where the great writer's heart was kept during long years was especially impressive.

This was the July 28 agenda of the Come Home program full of sporting victories and feelings of the beauty.

37. FIRST CONFERENCE OF ARMENIAN COMMUNITY IN MALTA TO TAKE PLACE [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

First conference of the Armenian community, recently officially registered in the capital of Malta Valletta, will take place today in the evening. Head of the Department of the Armenian Communities of the Diaspora Ministry Hrach Aslanyan told Armenpress that the main issue of the agenda of the conference is the election of the head of the community, besides issues on the organization of the community will be discussed.

H. Aslanyan said that Armenian community of Malta is quite organized and financially secure, its representatives are mainly jewelers, there are also lawyers and people involved in the service sector.

In Valletta the community is planning to open an Armenian Sunday schools as well as place a cross-stone dedicated to the memory of the Armenian Genocide in one of the streets of the town.

About 400 Armenians are living in Malta.

ARTS

38. SERJ TANKIAN TO REPRESENT BOOK OF POEMS [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

Soloist of the System of a Down rock band, famous singer of the Armenian origin Serj Tankian works on the book entitled I wandered lonely as a loon. Metal Hammer states this. "I am working now to finish my book of poems entitled Cool Gardens. The new collection of poems has no name yet but it is probably to be illustrated by Roger Kupelian who is the director of the Honking Antelope clip," Tankian mentioned.

39. ARMENIAN CHURCH PSALMS SOUND IN VILNIUS [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

St Jonas church of Vilnius where the biggest church organ of Lithuania is and where many famous musicians have performed concerts was again crowded on July 11 evening. This time the notification of the concert promised the listeners "an exclusive music evening, where Armenian church psalms which have a history of one and a half thousand years will sound."

Young singer Justina Harutyunian (mezzo soprano), organist Jurate Landsbergite, German flute player Johannes Hustedt and Lithuanian young trumpeter Sauljus Petreykis took part in the concert. The latter also performed as a duduk-player.

This year Vilnius has been announced the cultural capital of the EU and besides it in those days Lithuanian solemnly celebrated the millennial anniversary of the mention of the name Lithuania and the above-mentioned concert was held within the framework of the very program. The online Bernardinai.lt newspaper titled its publicity article in the following way: "Armenian millennial church psalms will congratulate millennial Lithuania." In the same article J. Harutyunian and J. Lansbergite told about Armenian sacred music and about Armenian notes, khazes.



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Armenian church psalms of V-XII centuries were the basis of the concert but Justina also performed Krunk, Kilikia, Dle Yaman, Chinar Es songs. The program of the concert was also interesting because besides some Armenian works, pieces by Bach and Lithuanian musicians (without vocal) were also performed, it can be said that each musician presented his national music at the concert. The different items of the program were wonderfully in harmony with each other contributing to the general success of the concert.

It is over 20 years that Jurate Landsbergite has been including Armenian sacred music in her concerts and gives lectures on that theme in European tours. Justina Harutyunian's mother, Marite Kontrimaite who is an Armenologist and translator of Armenian literature has greatly helped her in this issue. By the way, J. Landsbergis is the daughter of Lithuanian modern policy godfather Vitautas Landsbergis.

Justina Harutyunian is also an organist, she has graduated from Vilnius Musical Academy and now attends vocal classes at the same Academy. Her cooperation with J. Landsbergite is not new, they often have joint performances. Last year Justina performed church psalms to the accompaniment of Jurate at the Pray Breakfast event held at the Presidential residence of Lithuania.

It was not also the first time that S. Petreykis accompanied Justina. He is a great lover of duduk (Armenian national pipe) and this year is going to visit Armenia to attend some classes of duduk. Vahagn Grigorian

40. ON THE OCCASION OF AVET TERTERIAN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09] By Haroutiun Khachatrian

The 80th birthday of the Armenian composer Avet Terterian is celebrated on July 29.

Now that we have the opportunity to give at least a preliminary assessment of the previous century from the height of the 21st century, we can, without making a serious mistake, assert the following: out of numerous Armenian composers who grew on the national music basis created by the great Komitas, we have had two titans: Aram Khachatrian and Avet Terterian. Both were born outside Armenia - in Tbilisi and Baku, respectively. Khachatrian who was born in 1904 was a composer of the first half of the 20th century, while Terterian (born in 1929) emerged in the 1960s as if to take the baton from Khachatrian.

Khachatrian's fate evolved in such a way that his fame ensured the whole prestige of the Soviet Union: he was considered one of the three most famous Soviet composers of his time (along with Sergey Prokofyev and Dmirty Shostakovich). In case of Terterian, the situation was a bit different. True, we cannot maintain that the Soviet state ignored him, but due to the dictates of the time Terterian did not attain the fame he deserved, especially as he, most likely, surpassed the brilliant Khachatrian in talent (this is the personal opinion of the article's author, and of course, not everybody will subscribe to it). So the responsibility to present Avet Terterian in the due manner to the world lies with the Republic of Armenia.

Among the most significant works of Terterian are his eight symphonies, two ballets and the opera "Earthquake". This article does not pretend to any analysis of music, but it must be noted that the composer's powerful, exceptionally profound, apparently inexhaustible in their contents, and hence deeply Armenian works stand out against the background of contemporary music. His music seems somewhat hard to listen to (in general, is great music easy to listen to?), but only at first sight. The success of the opera "Earthquake" staged at the Spenidarian Opera Theatre last year bears evidence of it.

There is every reason to say that today Avet Terterian is the Armenian composer whose works are most frequently performed abroad, which is also evident from the data at www.terterian.org site. This is what the outstanding talent of the late composer has brought to (he died in 1994 and was buried in Yerevan). But how do we, the residents of Armenia, estimate Avet Terterian?

Now we have to present some worrying facts. In Yerevan, you cannot find any place linked to Terterian's name. There is not any monument, plaque, museum, or concert hall. The easiest thing - naming a Yerevan street after Avet Terterian was not done, although this issue has been raised at the Yerevan municipality. Even the 80th birthday anniversary of the composer has not been included in the list of this year's jubilees to be marked by the Ministry of Culture and therefore it is not celebrated at a state level. The above-mentioned www.terterian.org website was developed and is maintained by Germans and not Armenians. This is the way we treat our great wealth.

Meanwhile, there are people who dream that for example, one day an international symphonic music festival after Terterian would be held in Yerevan. To see it, is it necessary to wait for the next "round" jubilee?



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41. A. BAYANDURYAN SAYS TBILISI'S ARMENIAN THEATRE IS BLOSSOMING [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

Tbilisi's Armenian State Dramatic Theatre after P. Adamyan is July 26-31 in Armenia by tour performances. There are 5 performances in the play list on the basis of G. Sundukyan's "Khatabala", R. Kuni's "Run away from Your Wife", G. Khanjyan's "Guardians for Ruins", H. Paronyan's "Paghtasar Aghbar", as well as Sayat Nova's "In the World You are mine" works. Art Director of the theatre Armen Bayanduryan noted at today's meeting with journalists that the theatre is already 153 years old and visits Armenia quite often by tour performances. According to him, besides the Armenians, also the Georgians, Russians and Azerbaijani people visit the performances in Georgia. He also said that the theatre is boosting, it is filled with young professional cadres, and the young actors bring young spectator with them.

According to the Director of the theatre Roman Matiashvili, the 90 percent of the theatre play list comprise the works of Armenian classical writers. Works of Armenian and Georgian modern dramaturges are performed as well.

Speaking about the problems of the theatre, its director Felix Khachatryan noted that the building is not in favorable condition and needs reconstruction. In A. Bayanduryan's opinion, the actors of the theatre must have the right of becoming RA honorable artists; it will encourage them.

42. "OPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL -2009" TO KICK OFF JULY 30 IN THE OPEN-AIR HALL OF "MOSCOW" CINEMA [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

"Open Music Festival -2009" will kick off July 30 in the open-air hall of the "Moscow" cinema, having prepared a lot of surprises for the audience. The opening of gala-concert of the festival will be multi-genre, Armenian State Chamber Orchestra, renown singers Anna Mailyan, Aramo, the chorus "Armenian little singers", Italian accordionist Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi, the ensemble of drums "Vahagn" will come forward with performances.

Organizer of the festival, Art Director and Chief Conductor of the Armenian State Chamber Orchestra Aram Gharabekyan noted at today's press conference that a pause of cultural events in the period of July-September is marked, for the complementation of which, as well as for organization a summer open-air music event, they have decided to realize an open-air festival by mingling different musical styles.

The objective of the concert is to return Armenian serious musical traditions to the society by jointly presenting jazz and classical, ethnological and folk music art", - he said.

One of the specific features of the festival will be that the singers and musicians famous for their style, will come forward with other standards.

In 23 concerts with different titles 150 Armenian and foreign musicians are to come forward with performances presenting interesting and high tasted program to the Armenian audience.

Four concerts will be devoted to American different music styles in honor of the world music. The guests arrived from abroad will conduct master classes for promoting professional development and establishing cultural relations with different countries.

The open-air hall of the cinema has been renovated in a month for the festival, and sound equipments have been acquired from the German "Stage Tech" engineering company aimed at the organization of the concerts with high quality. Specialist of engineering company German Gido Katscher noted that the company deals with providing sound equipments for the world famous halls. G. Khatscher will stay in Armenia for 3 weeks and will take part in the upcoming concerts of the festival.

The Yerevan festival will last till September 21. For its organization many individuals and organizations have offered their support, the general sponsor is "Vivacell MTS" company, the official sponsors are "ConverseBank" and "Haypost" company. The festival is supported by USA Embassy in Armenia, Diaspora philanthropist Hovik Kurkjian and others as well.

43. VICTOR HOVHANNISYAN'S PAINTINGS PRESENTED AT ARMENIAN ARTISTS' UNION [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

The painting (landscape, portrait, design) of the member of the Armenian Artists' Union Victor Hovhannisyanyan was presented today at his first personal exhibition in the House of Painters drawing the attention of the professionals and painting lovers present at the opening.

By opening the exhibition Chairman of the Armenian Artists' Union Karen Aghamyan said that the current exhibition differs from the others in the sense that the author being a painter of theatre and



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cinema area, had courage to be introduced by a genre not typical of him, and that introduction is both pleasant and appraisable.

Armenian honorable painter Levon Kojoyan, who has been one of the teachers of Victor Hovhannisyian at Yerevan Pedagogic University after K. Abovyan, said that "today is a luminous day, as light is pouring from V. Havhannisyian's canvases". "Hovhannisyian has been my, as well as one of the best students of prominent masters Hovhannes Zardaryan and Ghukas Chubaryan and has been notable for his patriotism both in every day life and in the canvases", - he noted.

The head of the Department of Theatre and Cinema of Armenian Artists' Union, Armenian honorable painter Stepan Andranikyan told the guests that in the works of V. Hovhannisyian vibrations of cinema and theatre are notable.

Expressing gratitude for the warm words of the guests V. Hovhannisyian expressed hope that they won't be disappointed and will enjoy his works.

Victor Hovhannisyian was born in the region of Akhaltskha, received a professional education in Yerevan. "In 1966 I saw and got tightly connected with Armenia and Ararat", - writes the painter in the wallpaper designed on the occasion of the exhibition. And it was this connection that led him together with his brushes to Goris, Noravank and other places, and now the works created there comprise the part of the exhibition.

V. Hovhannisyian paints under music. Such a way of working was typical of Martiros Saryan as well.

44. THE EXHIBITION OF GRAPHICS AND SCULPTURE TO OPEN IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

On July 31 in the big hall of the Armenian Artists' House (first floor) exhibition of graphics and sculpture will open, the authors of which have brought about 150 works.

The representatives of all the generations of Armenian painting take part in the exhibition, and as the Secretary of the Armenian Artists' Union Khachatur Azizyan told Armenpress, the exhibition is considered a unique report of the authors of the given genre, which takes place once or twice a year.

45. "WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE BIRTHPLACE GEORGIA AND HOMELAND ARMENIA", HEAD OF ARMENIAN THEATER OF TBILISI SAYS [Aravot, 07/30/09]

The tours of Tbilisi's Petros Adamian State Armenian Dramatic Theater in Yerevan will end on July 31. This time the actors of this theater performed Ashkharums Imn Dun Is work by the motives of Sayat-Nova's works, G. Sundukian's Khatabala, H. Paronian's Paghtasar Akhpar, G. Khanjian's The Guards of the Ruins and R. Kuni's Escape from Your Wife performances.

"We are happy to have birthplace Georgia and homeland Armenia," art director of the theater Armen Bayandurian stated at a conference on July 29. He noted that Armenian and Georgian Ministries of Culture cooperated in organizing the tours, and RA Ministry of Diaspora also assisted them. According to A. Bayandurian, a new stage has begun in the life of the 153 years old theater, a new generation has come to the theater, who also brought a young spectator with them.

Touching upon the problems of the theater, the art director noted that it would be very good if the actors of the theatre were awarded honorary titles of the Republic of Armenia, as currently Georgia does not have those titles and the Armenian theater of Tbilisi serves for the preservation of Armenian literature and language. By the way, under USSR many famous actors of Tbilisi's Armenian Theater were awarded the title of RA People's or Merited Artist.

Director of the theater Felix Khachatrian touched upon another problem. According to him, today the building of the theater is in bad conditions and needs to be repaired.

46. FIRST DAY OF BEITEDIN FESTIVAL IS GUY MANOUKIAN'S, HE WILL PERFORM WITH ARMENIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/30/09]

The Assouman album of Lebanese Armenian famous composer of songs, pianist Guy Manoukian which was released on June 15 is the first in Lebanon since the day of its release and during a month it has already managed to get a golden color in the whole Middle East. According to Radio Liberty, it is Guy Manoukian's new, 6th album. It will be officially presented in Europe on August 3 and will be sold under the title Vibes (Tremolos).

"My new album is called Assouman, it is a Persian word and means "clear sky". I have been working at it for two years, it is my best work ever, half of the album is my typical style, that is, the East



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meets West with a modern twist, the other half of the album is more international. My music is not pure Arabic, it is an unique mixture, new sounds, there are Persian and Arabic, Chaldean and Assyrian sounds," Guy Manoukian said at the Asia Uncat TV show.

The Armenian composer calls his music Lebanese and explains how that unique and new sound appeared: "I was born and grew up in Lebanon and when you live in Lebanon you deal with music and culture of different nations from all sides. I have studied classical music since my childhood, I have also listened to French songs, as it is a French-speaking country, then I have also listened to English songs on radio... Growing up in Lebanon made me what I am now in music. That is why I call my music Lebanese which is a mixture of Eastern and Western music and it is more than a simple mixture, it is something new."

Like his music includes numerous elements of different cultures, Guy Manoukian himself also has numerous talents: he is a composer, pianist and also a basketball-player and a lawyer with higher education.

However, he owned up at the interview with Asia Uncat that he considers music to be a way of living: "Playing basketball, law and music create my musical career... In basketball you learn to play in a team, you learn to trust people. Now I have my group and I work with them in the same way as a trainer with a basketball team, and it helps me a lot. And when you study law you begin to separate the true from the wrong and you become a more practical person. I am an artist but I am not among the artists who are isolated from life and I think that all these things complement each other and promote my music in some way."

A week after presenting his new album in Europe, on August 9, Guy Manoukian will take part in the greatest Beitedin festival of the Middle East held in Lebanon which was launched on July 2 this year and consolidates such famous names as Charles Aznavour and film director Emir Kusturica with his No Smoking unique band.

One day of the festival, August 9 is Guy Manoukian's. He will perform with Armenian Philharmony Orchestra.

"In my career as a musician of the Middle East it is one of the greatest achievements that a musician can have. I will perform to the accompaniment of Yerevan Philharmony Orchestra and Mario Reyes from the Gypsy Kings group and it is really very inspiring for me," Guy Manoukian said at the Asia Uncat TV show.

47. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF "CREATIVE COOPERATION" PROGRAM EMPLOYEES OF ARMENIAN MUSEUMS TAKE TRAINING COURSES IN GEORGIA [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

Within the frameworks of "Creative Cooperation" program implemented by the Armenian office of the British Council the workers of Armenian museums take training courses in Georgia.

Responsible of the program of the Armenian office of the British Council Lilit Kalantarian told Armenpress that representatives of Armenian National Gallery, "Erebuni" historical-archeological reserve-museum and Museums of History and Wood Art took part in the training courses. According to her, the courses aim at contribution to acquiring skills of working in the museums.

The "Creative Cooperation" is a regional program which has been implemented since 2008. It is intended for more than 10 south-east European states. The program is reflected on important cultural issues which rise in the south-east Europe as a result of the changes in the social life level and which greatly concern the skilled culture figures.

According to Lilit Kalantarian, the program will enable the participants to cooperate with culture figures of other states to present and develop the works conducted by them. As a result of the implemented events development of international cooperation in the different spheres of the world art is anticipated.

Cultural figures of different states will take part in the meetings on the method called "Open territory". They will continue their activity towards ensuring inter-cultural dialogue and cooperation in different states.

L. Kalantarian said that the participants will have an opportunity of exchanging experience and information through the established net. The project will be implemented by the end of 2009.



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RELIGION

48. CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS RECEIVES SERBIAN PRESIDENT [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II received today in the Holy See of St. Etchmiadzin President of Serbian Republic Boris Tadic, who was in Armenia on an official visit, accompanied with Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan.

The press service of the Mother See told Armenpress that welcoming the Serbian President the Catholicos referred to the brotherly warm relations established between the peoples of the two countries and expressed hope that they will be more strengthened after this visit for the favor of Armenian and Serbian peoples.

Noting that Armenian Apostolic Church has brotherly warm relations and ties with Serbian Orthodox Church, His Holiness underscored the cooperation of the two churches in inter-church relations.

Thanking for the warm reception, Serbian President expressed his admiration for the merits of Armenian culture and Christianity. Speaking about the important role of Serbian Orthodox Church in the country's life, Boris Tadic expressed hope that parallel to establishing close relations between the two countries, the relations between the churches will be strengthened as well.

At the end of the meeting His Holiness addressed his best wishes to the Serbian President. The Catholicos conveyed his greeting of brotherly love to the Leader of the Serbian Orthodox Church Pavel Patriarch and all the members of Saint Synod.

SOCIAL

49. REGIONAL UNIT OF UNION OF ARMENIANS IN RUSSIA ESTABLISHED IN UDMURTIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

The constituent assembly of the Union of Armenians in Russia (UAR) all-Russian NGO's regional unit in the Republic of Udmurtia was held on July 12, Yerkramas newspaper reported.

According to Yerkramas, Mnatsakan Arakelian was elected the chairman of the UAR regional unit in Udmurtia. In the past 5 years, he has headed "Urtu" Armenian NGO in the Republic of Udmurtia.

50. ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OF UZBEKISTAN SENDS LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO RA MINISTER OF DIASPORA IN CONNECTION WITH IRANIAN PLANE CRASH [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

On behalf of the Armenian community in Uzbekistan, the board of the Armenian National Cultural Center in that country sent a letter of condolence to the RA Minister of Diaspora Ms. Hranush Hakobian. The letter reads:

"Dear Ms. Hranush. The news of the tragic death of the passengers and crew of the Iranian plane bound for Yerevan caused us a deep pain. The mourning days declared in Armenia are painful to the whole Armenian people, both in Armenia and around the world. We grieve over the irreparable loss suffered by the families and relatives of the crash victims and by the Armenian people. Our centuries-old faith will give strength to us, while the unity of the Armenians in Homeland and the Diaspora will help us endure this misfortune".

51. RESULTS OF RA SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SERVICE'S ACTIVITY IN FIRST HALF OF 2009 SUMMARIZED [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

In the first half of 2009, the RA Special Investigation Service investigated 105 criminal cases: 31 cases against 57 people with a bill of indictment were sent to court. Out of the cases sent to court, 11 were on crimes against the state service, 5 cases were related to harm caused to health of citizens, 4 cases - to harm caused to life and health of citizens, 4 cases were on crimes against constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, and one case was related to a crime against public security. 12 out of the criminal cases sent to court were opened based on the facts of corruption by 26 persons, including 12 officials.

12 officials were charged with crimes envisaged by the RA Criminal Code's Article 308 (abuse of official authority), Article 309 (exceeding official authority), article 311 (taking a bribe) and Article 312



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(giving a bribe). Among them were 6 policemen, 4 employees of the RA Ministry of Justice, one employee of the RA Ministry of Defence and one employee of the RA Ministry of Emergency Situations.

By the completed criminal cases, the total damage as a result of embezzlement, abuse of official authority, tax and duty evasion amounted to 56 million 834 thousand drams. 11 million 860 thousand drams or 20.8% of the indicated sum was indemnified during the investigation.

52. FRUITFUL ARMENIA ORGANIZES CONTEST TO REVEAL ARMENIAN TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE OF WORLD [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

The FRUITFUL ARMENIA organization initiated to hold the FRUITFUL ARMENIA CONTEST on the occasion of its 5th anniversary. The goal of the contest is to stimulate development of Armenian talented young people of the world and presentation of innovatory proposals.

According to the organization, Armenian young people from universities, research centers, the spheres of agriculture, industry, small and medium-size business, marketology, etc. who wants to express their hopes, present their knowledge and such revolutionary programs which will involve new methods, ideas and formats for working in the above-mentioned spheres in the Republic of Armenia can participate in the contest.

The organization hopes to search and reveal Armenian talented young people with the help of new methods.

Works are accepted till this October.

The prizes will be given during the awarding ceremony envisaged within the framework of the 5th FRUITFUL ARMENIA.

53. ARMENIAN-GEORGIAN INTERSCHOOL TIES WITH ASSISTANCE OF RA MINISTRY OF DIASPORA [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/29/09]

Yerevan School N20 after John Kirakosian responded the proposal of establishing friendly ties with Tbilisi N131 Russian-Armenian Secondary School presented by the RA Ministry of Diaspora. Manana Karapetian, the teacher of the History of Armenian Church of Tbilisi N131 Russian-Armenian Secondary School and the editor-in-chief of the Zrutsakits (interlocuter) school newspaper informed the Noyan Tapan correspondent about it.

In her words, the administration of the mentioned school of Tbilisi addressed to the RA Ministry of Diaspora to get assistance in the issue of establishing ties with one of schools of Armenia. It is envisaged that non-Armenian pupils of Tbilisi School N131 will also participate for 10 days in classes of Yerevan School N20, and the later's pupils will visit the mentioned school in Tbilisi. Joint cultural programs are also envisaged.

Touching upon the problems of the Armenian schools in Georgia, M. Karapetian considered appropriate that exact sciences and natural sciences are taught in those schools not translated from Georgian into Armenian, but by Armenian language text-books used in Armenia as there are mistakes and faults in the Georgian text-books on the mentioned subjects which are also repeated in their Armenian translations.

She affirmed that there is need of text-books on the Armenian Fiction, on the History of Armenian People and Art and, especially, on the Oratory. The circumstance that Georgian Armenian pupils compose their ideas at the all-Armenian olympiads on the Armenian language and literature worse than, for example, Iranian and Syrian Armenian pupils, is conditioned by absence of the text-books on the Oratory.

The Georgian Armenian teacher also stated that the mentioned school in Tbilisi is in the region of the city populated by Armenians, and 350 from 460 pupils of the school are Armenians, but only 64 pupils studied at Armenian classes during the 2008/2009 school year. He conditioned such a situation with the circumstance that Armenian parents prefer to give their child to a Russian or Georgian school, considering that it is not advantageous for a child to leave an Armenian school from the point of view of entering an institution of higher education in Georgia and possibilities of finding a job. That is the reason that Armenian classes of the mentioned school occupy 45-person classrooms for a class of 4-5 pupils, and the Russian classes are overloaded what influences on the education quality. For this reason a small flow of pupils from Russian classes to Armenian ones has already been noticed during the recent years. Manana Karapetian mentioned that teaching of the Georgian language is also on a high level at the Armenian department of the school, owing to what 4 from 5 school leavers of 2008 of the Armenian department entered Georgian institutions of higher education.



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She also added that if there were 34 Armenian schools in Tbilisi in the middle of 1970s, there are only 6 ones at present.

54. POGHOS ARO'S SWEDISH-ARMENIAN VOCABULARY PRESENTED [ARMENPRESS, 07/29/09]

Today the Swedish-Armenian vocabulary by Sweden-based Poghos Aro was presented in the Armenian National Library, which was published in Sweden in 600 examples. Director of the library Davit Sargsyan said that P. Aro's work, besides being appraisable and responsible, also is a great contribution to strengthening and developing Armenian-Swedish cultural relations.

According to him, by now the translations of Swedish literature have been made by means of intermediary language, mainly – from Russian and English. "Hereafter this vocabulary will enable our Swedish loving society to read original books in Swedish", - D. Sargsyan said. According to linguist Lalik Khachatryan, we have had vocabulary messages since the 5th century, to which we treat with respect. "This vocabulary like others will be ranged among the monuments strengthening cultural relations between the countries", - L. Khachatryan said. Linguist Ruben Sarkapetyan said that a literature feat has been committed; it will become a basis for the extension of translating activity.

By the assurance of the author of the vocabulary, this is a long expected vocabulary, which is unique and single among the ones ever issued.

The most applicable and necessary words belonging to medical, literature, economic, social and other spheres – overall 30 000 units, are inserted in the vocabulary.

The Armenian-Swedish vocabulary was published by the same author in 2008.

55. 18 PEOPLE APPLIED TO THE MIGRATION AGENCY DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR TO GET A TEMPORARY SHELTER IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

During the first half of this year 18 people applied to the Migration Agency of RA Territorial Administration Ministry for getting a temporary shelter in Armenia.

Head of the department of the shelter applicants of the Agency Ruzanna Petrosyan told Armenpress that all of them are from Iraq. All of them are provided with temporary certificates of stay for three months, after which according to the order the application is studied and decision made on giving a right for temporary shelter in Armenia. The study of the cases of 18 Iraqi citizens is at present in process.

During the first half of the running year 4 people applied to the Migration Agency for getting a status of a refugee, two of which are from Iran, one – from Uzbekistan, one – from Ethiopia.

According to R. Petrosyan connected with the inter-political situation in Iran after the presidential elections no flow of applications to the Migration Agency has been noted.

56. THE MEDICAL SERVICE OF THE RESIDENTS IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES OF SYUNIK IS BEING CONDUCTED BY 11 CENTERS OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

Eleven centers of primary health care in Syunik conduct the medical service of the residents of the rural communities of the province.

Head of the health and social security department of the governor's office Ashot Tsatrian told Armenpress that taking into consideration small number of residents in the province the medical accoucheur centers of the neighboring villages have been subordinated to the rural ambulatories. As the financing is made according to the number of the residents, the rural ambulatories face serious issues in caring the expenditures of medical accoucheur centers to ensure them with necessary medicine and to organize the monthly obligatory visits to the communities under its control.

The absence of transportation means in the rural ambulatories also impedes proper organization of the works. Only 4 of the 11 ambulatories have transportation means which are 10-12 years old.

57. ON THE DAY OF KNOWLEDGE A FIXED ALLOWANCE OF 30 000 DRAMS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN OF THE SERVICEMEN KILLED IN NKR DEFENSE [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

The government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic decided at its today's session to extend a fixed allowance of 30 000 Drams on September 1 on the occasion of the Day of Knowledge to the children of the servicemen killed in defense and military actions of NKR, as well as implementing service obligations. The payments will be realized by "Artsakhpost" from August 1 of each year. This year over 630 people will get the assistance. Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan assigned to accomplish the transfers not late than August 15.



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The government also approved the list of 2009 master's entrance specializations of the Stepanakert branch of Armenian State Agrarian University, as well as the payable and state-funded places.

For ensuring the schools of NKR settlements with relevant specialists and encouraging the pedagogues leaving for a business trip, the government has come to a decision to set up a system of sending pedagogues to a business trip to other places, according to which they will be given additional pay in the size of 50% of their salary and a monthly financial support of 20 000 Drams for the dwelling apartment by the means of the state budget.

NKR Education and Culture Minister Vladik Khachatryan noted at the government session that in educational centers of remote settlements of the Republic there is mainly a demand for the specialist of foreign language, about 65 schools of the Republic don't have corresponding cadres. According to V. Khachatryan, the state must create conveniences for the teachers responding to the patriotic initiative. Judging by the Armenian experience, it has been proposed to involve servicemen with relevant education in the program if necessary, especially that there have been such examples, and the many have permanently settled in remote villages after the service.

58. AS OF JULY 1 PERMANENT POPULATION IN ARMENIA REACHES 3 MILLION 240.7 PEOPLE [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

As of July 1, the number of the permanent population of Armenia reached 3 million 240.7 people. Armenian National Statistics service told Armenpress that 2 million 075.9 people are living in urban and 1 million 164.8 people in rural settlements.

1 million 113.4 people are living in capital Yerevan, 141.2 in Aragatsotn province, 277.9 in Ararat province, 283.2 in Armavir, 240.7 in Gegharkunik, 281.3 in Lori, 279.4 in Kotayk, 281.0 in Shirak, 152.8 in Syunik, 55.8 in Vayots Dzor and 134.0 in Tavush province.

59. CRIMINAL CASE OPENED BASED ON FACT OF UPWARD DISTORTIONS DURING ARIN-BERD RESTORATION WORK [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/30/09]

The State Interest Protection Department of the RA Prosecutor General's Office opened a criminal case based on the fact of embezzlement through upward distortions during the restoration work at Erebuni residence (Arin-Berd).

By the agreement signed between the RA Ministry of Culture and Aragatsotn CJSC on June 19, 2008, the indicated company was to implement restoration work at Arin-Berd under the Restoration of Monuments program. According to the press service of the RA Prosecutor General's Office, in August-November 2008, Aragatsotn CJSC's director L. Ghukasian made upward distortions of the work volumes by entering obviously false information in the official reports on handing-over and acceptance of the work and using that information. Based on the reports, he received 1 million 196.2 thousand drams (about 3.3 thousand USD) from the Ministry of Culture and embezzled this money.

Based on the fact, the State Interest Protection Department of the RA Prosecutor's Office opened a criminal case under the RA Criminal Code's Articles 178 Part 2 Point 2 and Article 325 Part 1. The case has been sent to the RA Police for investigation.

60. CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS INITIATED AGAINST AZATAMTUTYUN DAILY BASED ON APPLICATION OF ZARUHI POSTANJIAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/30/09]

Based on an application of the member of the RA National Assembly's "Heritage" faction Zaruhi Postanjian, criminal proceedings were initiated against Azatamtutyun (Liberalism) daily under the RA Criminal Code's Article 136 (Insult), NT was informed by the press service of the RA Police.

To recap, Z. Postanjian had applied to the law enforcement bodies with the request to open a criminal case against the daily for spreading libelous information insulting her person and dignity.

61. EXCLUSIVE SAMPLES OF THE EARLY MIDDLE AGE CASTLE AND THE MAUSOLEUM FIELD OF ANCIENT TIMES FOUND NEARBY KECHARIS TEMPLE TO BE PRESENTED [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

Exhibition of the exclusive samples of castle and the mausoleum field discovered during excavations nearby the Kecharis temple will be presented in the house-museum of Orbeli brothers in Tsakhkadzor.



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Head of the archeological expedition Husik Melkumian told Armenpress that the discovered castle belongs to the early middle age period. Only the architectural construction testifies of this. But the discovered materials date back to the beginning of the 10th up to 14th century. The mausoleum field belongs from Urartu to the ancient period.

Exclusive interesting samples are the copper Byzantium coins which will also be exhibited. The materials will be exhibited for 1-2 month.

H. Melkumian considered the results of excavations nearby Kecharis very satisfying. The excavations, which have been suspended because of the absence of financial means, will by all means be restarted in 2010. There is an aim to turn the area into the open-air museum.

H. Melkumian expressed gratification for the cooperation with the Tsakhkadzor municipality noting that the archeologists permanently feel the support of the mayor in any issue. The excavations are being conducted by the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the RA National Academy of Science in two groups.

H. Melkumian noted that the third group would give an opportunity to start the excavations in the "Head of the Castle" area which is 1.5-2 km to the south-west of the castle.

62. DEFENSE MINISTRY PR DEPARTMENT TO ORGANIZE EXPEDITIONS FOR CONSOLIDATION OF ARMY-PUBLIC TIES [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

The Defense Ministry's press and public relations department is planning to organize and conduct information expeditions which will promote the consolidation of army-public ties, love and increase of trust of the public towards the army.

Spokesman of the Defense Ministry Seyran Shahsuvaryan told Armenpress that with that aim the cooperation with individuals and creative groups working on the themes of the defense of the homeland, army, military service will be expanded.

The spokesman said that in near future a competition of scenario ideas for films will kick off.

63. MULTI-LANGUAGE INFORMATIVE PANELS TO BE SET IN THE TERRITORY OF SEVAN TEMPLE [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

Multi-language informative panels will be set August 8 in the territory of Sevan temple by the "Project of recognition of Armenian monuments" NGO.

Head of the NGO Richard Ney told Armenpress that the territory has not been selected accidentally as the Sevan temple is one of the notable middle-age complexes of Armenian history and culture located at one of the most picturesque places of Armenia – Sevan peninsula.

During the event spiritual music will sound, organizers and sponsors will deliver speeches. According to R. Ney, the chief goal of the project is to present the rich historical-cultural and nature heritage, contribute to the presentation of historical and sightseeing places boosting the development of tourism in Armenia.

64. 854 TREES HAVE BEEN ILLEGALLY CUT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

The officials of the Armenian State Nature Protection Inspection during their check visits from the beginning of the year up to now found 854 illegally cut trees in "Hayantar", "Meghri", "Stepanavan", "Dsegh" and "Gugark" woods which caused 49 million AMD damage to the nature.

Press service of the Armenian Nature Protection Ministry told Armenpress that in the same period during the established oversight 4 environmental violations have been revealed as a result of which an act of administrative fine of 200,000 AMD has been formed and 84,000 have been seized and transferred to the Armenian state budget.

In January-July the environment protectors found 22 violations in land protection sphere for which 20 acts of administrative fine of 1,2 million AMD have been formed and 5 applications of compensation of the harm amounting to 3,6 million AMD.



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65. ANOTHER TWO FAMILIES HAVING MANY CHILDREN PROVIDED WITH APARTMENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF THE PROJECT OF PROMOTION TO BEARING AND MULTI-CHILDREN IN NKR [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

Within the frameworks of the project of promotion to the bearing and multi-children in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic 2 apartments have been exploited in the Tsovategh community of Martuni region.

Assistant to the head of the Capital construction department of the NKR government Vanya Gasparian told Armenpress that the 4 room apartments which have been provided to the families having six children have been constructed on the state budget means and each of them have been allocated with 26.5 million drams.

Compared with the apartments built in Artsakh for the multi-children families formerly the present buildings have a new design and differ from the others with their comfort as well as quality characteristics.

66. ARMENIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENTS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI BOMBING [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

August 6 is marked in Japan as the Day of Memory of the victims of the bombing of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki towns during the World War II. Starting from 2005 Armenia is also participating in the events dedicated to the Day of Memory.

Each year in Japan an exhibition of hand-works of pupils of Armenia's National Aesthetics Center is being organized by the International Director of "Memorial Complex of Atomic Victims" Steve Kolak.

The director of the hand art group of the center Karine Piliposyan told Armenpress that this year they have sent hand-made 1000 cranes and 64 torches for the exhibition. "The idea aroused after hearing the tragic story of a small Japanese girl – Sadako Sasaki – after getting ill as a result of the bombing she believed that might be cured in case she prepared 1000 cranes: her dream did not come true: she died when she was 12 years old having prepared the 600th crane. The Armenian children have brought the dream of the Japanese girl into life," K. Piliposyan said.

She noted that the cranes are being sent as an anti-war call and the torches symbolize the bright memory of the victims. The number of torches is agreed with the 64th anniversary of bombing. K. Piliposyan said they are looking forward for responses about their idea.

67. GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKES ALL MEASURES NOT TO REDUCE EXPENDITURES FOR THE SOCIAL SPHERE [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

The government of Armenia is undertaking all the possible measures not to reduce the expenditures of the social sphere intended by the state budget. Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Minister Gevorg Petrosyan noted that among other issues the government pays a special attention to the social sphere as well.

The minister during the recent period made a number of visits to different establishments affiliated to the ministry, particularly to the children's houses and old people's houses to find out their prior issues. "I must get convinced myself that all the means released from the state budget and provided by the donor organizations are spent purposefully," G. Petrosyan said.

During the visits the minister registered that there is a lack of attention towards people. "There are many issues, and serious works must be implemented. In this respect I highlight the support of the donor organizations," the minister said, adding that he is planning to create a mechanism of evaluation of needs with which not only the needs of an establishment will be assessed but also the needs of the individuals living there.

He assured that the issues will be solved step by step. The ministry is planning to implement different social programs, create mechanisms for donor organizations which will help them to oversight the process.

G. Petrosyan also noted that the visits to different establishments will continue.

68. "VIVACELL MTS" AND "ARMENIAN RED CROSS" COMPANY SIGN MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING DIRECTED TOWARDS PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

"VivaCell-MTS" and "Armenian Red Cross" company signed today a memorandum of mutual understanding directed towards the prevention of HIV/AIDS in Armenia.

The signing of the memorandum pre-supposes implementation of multi-round action which will involve various events for increasing the awareness of the population for prevention of HIV/AIDS.



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President of the “Armenian Red Cross” company Mkhitar Mnatsakanian said today at a press conference that the goal of the two companies is to unite the forces to respond and assist the vulnerable class of the public.

General Director of “VivaCell-MTS” Ralf Yirikian said that one of the important pre-conditions of preventing HIV/AIDS is awareness and the cooperation of the two companies is directed towards increasing its level.

69. WORKS CARRIED OUT TO PREVENT ENTRANCE OF H1N1 TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

Works are being carried out to prevent the entrance of H1N1 virus to Armenia. Health Minister Harutyun Kushkyan told today the reporters that the situation is stable and is under control, no alarming facts have been registered yet.

“As far as it is a tourism season a daily and hourly oversight work is being carried out in direction of revealing the virus. In case it is registered in the republic we are ready to treat it as we have necessary medicine,” the minister said.

70. ALL-ARMENIAN CONFERENCES OF LAWYERS AND BANKERS TO BE HELD IN 2009 IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 07/30/09]

The RA government at the July 30 session decided to organize and hold conferences of lawyers and bankers Armenian by nationality from Armenia and foreign states in 2009 in Armenia for the purpose of consolidating, assessing the all-Armenian scientific and professional potential, creating all-Armenian professional associations and commissions in the sphere of Armenia-Diaspora cooperation. Noyan Tapan was informed about it by the RA government Information and Public Relations Department.

SPORTS

71. THE BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS OF PAN-ARMENIAN GAMES TO BE HELD AUGUST 9-16 IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

The second basketball and first football tournaments of the Pan-Armenian Games will be held August 9-16 in Armenia.

Executive Director of the World Committee of Pan-Armenian Games Elen Ter-Grigorian told Armenpress that as of the present moment 17 football and 15 male and 8 female basketball teams from different states of the world presented applications of participation in the games; the number of participants is not final. Teams of another 7-8 towns orally informed of the participation. Yet three football teams from Armenia will take part in it.

According to E. Ter-Grigorian, compared with the previous years this year quite great activeness is noted. They cooperate with the Diaspora Ministry expecting for a more active work in the foreign Armenian communities. Deputy Diaspora minister Stepan Petrosyan has been involved in the World Committee of Pan-Armenian Games.

The first Pan-Armenian Games took place August 28-September 5 1999, in which sport delegations from 62 towns of 23 states of the world took part. There were 7 sports in the program of the first games – football, basketball, volleyball, athletics, tennis, table tennis, and chess.

Second Pan-Armenian Games took place August 18-26, 2001 in 9 sports. Mini football and swimming were additionally imputed in the program of the games. Sportsmen from 86 towns of 29 states of the world took part in it.

Third Pan-Armenian Games took place August 16-24, 2003 in Yerevan. Badminton was added to the program of the games thus making 10 sport types. Three new nominations were set – Best Diaspora Delegation, Fair Game, Sport Soul and Tolerance. Armenian athletes from 94 towns of 27 states presented applications of participation.

Fourth Pan-Armenian Games took place August 18-26 in Yerevan in 10 sports. Representatives of 94 towns from 27 states of the world presented applications of participation.



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72. L. ARONIAN TO COMPETE WITH H. NAKAMURA IN THE FINAL OF "CHESS 960"
[ARMENPRESS, 07/30/09]

During the second round of the "Chess 960" tournament being held in the German Mainz town Armenian grand master Levon Aronian earned 1 point from 3 possible and appeared in the final with 4 points. In the first round L. Aronian had earned three points beating in all three matches.

In the final he will compete with the USA grand master Hikaru Nakamura who earned 3 points in the second round and 1 point in the first round.

The champion will be decided in the competition of four matches.

Grand masters Sergey Movsisian from Slovakia and Viorel Bologan from Moldova will compete for the third place.

The tournament is held within the frameworks of the international chess festival ongoing in Mainz and will be finished on August 2.

73. LEVON ARONIAN TAKES THE SECOND PLACE IN THE CHESS-960 WORLD CUP
[ARMENPRESS, 07/31/09]

The Chess-960 world cup ended in Mainz. During the final the Armenian grand master Levon Aronian competed with Hikarou Nakamura representing the United States. In all three matches of the final Levon Aronian was defeated and took the second place.

In the struggle for the third place Sergey Movsisian representing Slovakia beat 2:1 the best Moldavian chess player Victor Bologan.

Tomorrow the final round of rapid chess world cup kicks off in which Levon Aronian will also take part.

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