



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, September 18, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. ARF TO PRESENT SOON ITS PROPOSALS ON MAKING AMENDMENTS TO ARMENIA-TURKEY PROTOCOLS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/16/09]

The ARF will soon publish its proposals (with the respective substantiation) on making amendments to Armenia-Turkey protocols initiated on August 31, ARF Bureau member Aghvan Vardanian announced at De Facto press club on September 11. In his words, each proposal will be within the norms of international law.

"These proposals should be definite so that we will not assume other disguised obligations. The matter concerns first of all the problem of the Genocide so as not to make it a subject of discussion. We will rule out the assumption of additional obligations on bilateral or multilateral recognition of borders because we are members of international organizations and we have already done all thus," A. Vardanian said. He underlined the necessity of clear wording in order to avoid considering the Nagorno Karabakh problem in the context of territorial integrity.

He deemed it important to get proposals from all political forces and figures and to hold discussions. According to him, no domestic political consultation has taken place so far, although its need was indicated in the report attached to the protocols. "What we have been doing in the past ten days: press conferences, interviews, and opinions by experts has little relation to internal political consultations," he noted.

He considered as strange the opinion expressed by the Armenian foreign minister's spokesman to the effect that the discussions have begun as various views on the problem are being voiced. A. Vardanian said no one will deny the exceptional importance of the problem for the state and people, and political consultations mean also discussions at other levels such as the Security Council, the National Assembly, and the government. He added that unlike Armenia, Turkey has already developed a clear agenda and is holding meetings with representatives of the General Staff and the National Assembly.

2. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY HAKOB HAKOBIAN NOT TO LAY DOWN HIS MANDATE [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/16/09]

The autumn session of the RA National Assembly started on September 15. 94 issues, including 12 international agreements, are on the agenda of sittings to be held on September 15-17. Among these issues is the conclusion of the NA Ad Hoc Committee on the Inquiry into the March 1-2 Events in Yerevan and their Reasons.

The above mentioned ad hoc committee was set up on June 16, 2008 and it was to report on the results of its work by October 25, 2008. However, later the period of the ad hoc committee's work was extended three times - by decisions of the National Assembly, and the current deadline is September 15. By the way, Hakob Hakobian - an accused person under the criminal case opened in relation to the March 1-2 events, a NA deputy released under an amnesty - took part in the NA session after a long absence.

In response to questions of reporters, H. Hakobian said that unlike deputy Khachatur Sukiasian, who was charged in connection with the same events and recently gave up his mandate, he has no intention to lay down his mandate of NA deputy. In his words, he is not offended by the act of his colleagues - National Assembly deputies who approved the RA prosecutor general's petition of March 4, 2008, on involving Hakob Hakobian and three other NA deputies - Khachatur Sukiasian, Myasnik Malkhasian and Sasun Mikaelian as accused persons and arresting them.

H. Hakobian declared he will continue being a supporter of the first President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosian.

3. FIRST MEMORIAL FOR ARMENIAN GENOCIDE VICTIMS TO BE ERECTED IN ISRAEL [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/16/09]

Construction of Armenian Genocide memorial complex dedicated to the 95th anniversary of Genocide is launched on the initiative of the Ararat Union of Armenians of Israel and with the consent of



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Petach Tykva Mayor's Office. PanARMENIAN.Net correspondent was informed about it by the Ararat union.

"Many states have recognized the Armenian Genocide of 1915, there are memorials for Armenian Genocide victims in various corners of the world and the memorial complex being built on the Sacred Land, state of Israel is not only symbolic but also one step on the way of restoration of historic justice," the letter of Ashot Martirosian, the Chairman of the Union of Armenians of Israel, to all Armenians read.

"For implementing the sacred task of creation of a memorial complex of 1915 Genocide victims we expect assistance from all of you, ask all of you for moral and material support by providing which you will be recognized an official sponsor of the memorial complex and will make your contribution to the sacred affair of perpetuating the memory of Genocide victims. We are grateful for assistance and support," Ashot Martirosian's letter read.

4. RA DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR OF RUSSIA TO RA [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/16/09]

RA Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharian met with newly appointed Ambassador of RF to RA Vyachelsav Kovalenko on September 16. A number of issues regarding Armenian-Russian bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting. It was mutually mentioned that mutual understanding, mutual confidence and close cooperation established between Armenia and Russia create a good basis for further strengthening the allied relations and strategic cooperation.

According to a report by the RA Foreign Ministry Press Service, the interlocutors also exchanged thoughts over a number of regional and international issues.

5. ZHARANGUTIUN SENDS OFFICIAL LETTER TO RA GOVERNMENT WITH PROPOSAL OF SETTING REFERENDUM [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/16/09]

Zharangutiun (Heritage) party Board Chairman Armen Martirosian and head of the parliamentary faction of the same name Styopa Safarian sent an official message to RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian on September 16.

They mentioned that as far back as on September 3 Zharangutiun made a statement on the 2009 August 31 press release of the Swiss Foreign Ministry, RA and Turkish Foreign Ministries and two initiated protocols. In addition to 10 steps on Armenian-Turkish relations considered expedient and aimed at revelation of state-public-political attitude and views, the statement suggested before the final signing and ratification of the protocols, in the coming month putting the documents to referendum, accompanied by the issue of confidence in the RA President responsible for the RA foreign policy.

"On behalf of the Zharangutiun party and faction of the same name we apply to you to exercise the responsibility and right reserved for you by the RA Constitution and RA law On Referendum, that is, to initiate and in the coming month to hold a referendum aimed at revelation of the public opinion on coordinated and initiated documents, which will be accompanied by the issue of confidence in the RA President responsible for the RA foreign policy," the letter to the RA Prime Minister read.

6. ARMENIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE AMBASSADOR OF USA TO ARMENIA SIGN TWO PROTOCOLS [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/17/09]

Armenian Attorney General Aghvan Hovsepian and the Ambassador of USA to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch signed today two protocols about the changes in letter-agreements of Drug control signed between Armenian and U.S. Governments and Cooperation in the law enforcement sphere.

According to them, the US Government will allocate additional financing of \$2.3 million to the Armenian Government for the implementation of the projects directed towards the improvement of judicial system.

During the briefing after the ceremony of signing of the protocols Aghvan Hovsepian noted that the agreement will give an opportunity to implement serious reforms in the judicial system as well as to settle a number of important issues.

"The cooperation will contribute to a more efficient activity of the legal sphere," the Attorney General noted.

According to the Ambassador of USA to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch the rule of law is important for any state; it boosts establishment of democracy and security. She noted that financing will contribute to the development of the mentioned establishments in Armenia and implementation of bilateral projects, including the criminal-investigation institute, development of the center of financial observations of the



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Central Bank, support to the victims of trafficking, project of development of law-enforcement educational establishments of Armenia, etc.

"We support Armenia in establishing a fair, efficient judicial system in the state," M. Yovanovitch stressed.

Since signing the initial agreement on 11 June 2001, the USA Government has allocated more than \$12 million to Armenia through the Office of fight against drugs and legal cooperation of the Embassy.

7. ARMENIAN FM TO BE IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 26-29 [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

"I can confirm that Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan will be in New York September 26-29 to participate in the session of UN General Assembly," spokesman for the minister Tigran Balayan said, commenting with request of Armenpress, to the statement of the Russian co-chair of the Minsk group Yuri Merzlyakov that within the framework of the 64th session the co-chairs and personal representative of the OSCE acting chairperson will meet with the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Yuri Merzlyakov noted that he will get acquainted with the new US co-chair in New York. He also said that the issues on possible meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents in Kishinev will be discussed. He noted that in case an arrangement be reached between the two presidents and the political situation in Moldova is stable the meeting will take place in October.

8. EDWARD NALBANDYAN SAYS THE STATE NEEDS PUBLIC'S SUPPORT FOR SIGNING PROTOCOLS ON NORMALIZATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

With the assignment of the Armenian president the government is preparing a package referring to the issues on normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations which supposes multi-sided, deep discussions, studies both connected with the economic issues and issues on opening of the border and the parliamentarians will be participants of the discussions, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said today at the NA-Government Q&A.

Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan, in response to the question of the head of the ARF faction Vahan Hovhannisyan said that he has received an invitation from the NA's Foreign Relations permanent commission to participate in hearings on the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations and accepted it.

"Today we have pre-signed protocols which were presented to the public discussion so that the public is aware and the parliamentarians be ready to express opinion during the ratification," the foreign minister said.

As to the question whether Armenian Foreign Ministry has suggestion on the improvement of the documents, Nalbandyan said that the Foreign Ministry itself conducted negotiations. "If we make suggestions there are also suggestions from the other side as well: during these negotiations many of the suggestions of the Turkish side have not been accepted and we came to this document which we presented to the public," the minister said.

Parliamentarian G. Melikyan was interested whether not considering the issue on the Armenian Genocide as a pre-condition Armenia with the pre-signed documents refuses international recognition of the Armenian genocide. In response to it Nalbandyan reminded that yet the Soviet Armenia in 1988 with rule of law made a decision on recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide and it is still in force. The minister noted that the Turkish side agrees the regulation of relations with the creation of the commission of historians which would have studied what happened in 1915 and the protocols say that subcommissions will be established within the framework of inter-governmental commissions one of which will deal with restoration of mutual trust between the two peoples and this only after opening of the border and establishment of diplomatic relations.

He reminded that the Armenian president has many times noted that the reality of Armenian genocide and the issue of its recognition cannot be put under question.

On the question of the member of the "Heritage" party Larisa Alaverdyan on conducting referendum, Armenian prime minister said that taking into consideration the circumstance that on the initiative of the president discussions are being held it is early to speak about it.



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9. SINGAPORE SENIOR MINISTER TO ARRIVE IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

At the invitation of the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan Senior Minister of Singapore Li Kuan Yu will pay a three-day visit to Armenia September 17-19. The visit will take place with the support of the Armenian National Competitiveness Council.

Foreign Ministry Media and Information Department told Armenpress that during the visit the minister will meet with the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan.

Singapore senior minister will visit Holy See of St. Etchmiadzin where he will meet with Catholicos Karekin II.

Li Kuan Yu will take part in the session of the Armenian National Competitiveness Council anchored by Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan.

The guest is also expected to meet with Armenian businessmen.

10. VICE SPEAKER OF GREAT BRITAIN'S HOUSE OF LORDS – IN ARTSAKH [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Vice speaker of the Great Britain's House of Lords Baroness Caroline Cox has paid her regular 69th visit to Nagorno Karabakh. This time the Baroness arrived with a group of representatives of Anglican Church who came with one week to see Artsakh and Armenia.

A representative of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church told Armenpress that Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan received the guests.

11. PLENARY SESSION OF NKR NA TAKES PLACE [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

The first plenary session of the Nagorno Karabakh kicked off. The Karabakh NA press service told Armenpress that opening the session the speaker noted that the session starts in the active political atmosphere connected with new geopolitical and regional developments "which supposes that in parallel with our main legislative activity we will continue staying in the regime of political discussions, having under the limelight the issues on inter-parliamentary cooperation."

The session of the Karabakh NA discussed the issues of the agenda and approved the law on "NKR Administrative Division".

12. ARF IS AGAINST THE RATIFICATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH PROTOCOLS [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) will make use of every minor opportunity to present to the public the risks for Armenia coming across in the Armenian-Turkish initially signed protocols, ARF office responsible Kiro Manoyan said at today's press conference noting that those risks are included in the points on recognition of the Armenian-Turkish present borders and on setting up a sub-commission for studying the archives.

"Actually, by recognizing the present Armenian-Turkish borders the Kars Treaty is being indirectly brought to life. Armenia has never said that it will not present a territorial demand to Turkey. By the establishment of the sub-commission for studying the archives the fact of the recognition of Armenian Genocide is becoming a subject for discussion, the process of its international recognition is being hindered as well", K. Manoyan said.

The latter pointed out once more that ARF is against the ratification of the protocols by the National Assembly, as well as it is against some calls on submitting the issue to general referendum.

According to the office responsible of ARF the Armenian parliament will quickly ratify the protocols, and Turkey on the contrary, will try to do it as late as possible, till Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation.

K. Manoyan noted that their actions of complaint next to the buildings of RA government and Foreign Affairs Ministry will go on at least till October 13. Besides that, the ARF institutions being abroad will organize similar actions in USA and Europe as well.

13. INTERESTING DISCUSSION ELABORATED OVER NORMALIZATION PROCESS OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan invited the leaders of the political parties to a consultation on the current round of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations and an interesting discussion has been



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elaborated, spokesman for the president Samvel Farnanyan told the reporters, informing that invitations have been sent to heads of 64 parties functioning in Armenia, of which 52 are participating in the consultation. Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan is also taking part in it.

Farnanyan assures that all the participants of the consultation had an opportunity to express their viewpoints and suggestions.

This is the third thematic discussion on the initiative of the president with the participation of leaders of political forces: the previous two referred to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation issue and mechanisms for smoothing the impact of global financial-economic crisis.

14. PARLIAMENTARY HEARINGS ON THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 22 [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Armenian National Assembly's foreign relations permanent commission is organizing September 22 "Pre-Signed Protocols and Normalization Process of Armenian-Turkish Relations" parliamentary hearings.

Public relations department told Armenpress that the hearings are aimed at discussion of the undertaken process between Armenia and Turkey on the basis of the published documents with the participation of representatives of political, non-governmental organizations, political research centers and experts.

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan will too participate in the hearings.

15. VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE REGIME REGISTERED IN A NUMBER OF SECTORS OF THE CONTACT LINE OF NK AND AZERBAIJANI ARMED FORCES [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Violation of ceasefire regime has been registered on September 17 early in the morning in a number of sectors of the contact line of NK and Azerbaijani armed forces. Press service of NKR Defense Ministry told Armenpress that the rival opened fire toward Karabakh posts located in the directions of the settlements of Horadiz, Ashagh Abdurahmanli, Chakhrli, Ashagh Veysali, Marzili, Karakal, Jraberd and Verin Chaylu.

After the similar response undertaken by the front divisions of the defense army the rival stopped.

16. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT ARMENIAN-POPULATED COMMUNITIES [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today Vice Speaker of the Great Britain's House of Lords, Baroness Caroline Cox.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that with the September 16 decree of the Armenian President Caroline Cox has been awarded Order of Honor for her weighty contribution to the development and consolidation of Armenian-British relations.

"This award is the gratitude of the Armenian people and assessment to Your activity," the president said and added, "We will also be delighted to host You in Armenia and are proud that we have such a friend".

The leader of the country highly assessed the attention of the Baroness Cox, her support and warmth and active work.

Caroline Cox said that any award is honoring but for her getting such high award in Armenia is double honoring. She said she is visiting Armenia for the 69th time and her each visit is singled out with new impressions, changes and new progress.

Noting that during this days the most discussable issue is the normalization process of Armenian-Turkish relations and in the coming days discussions will be conducted in Armenia in different formats, the Armenian President said that during the coming weeks he will visit a number of Armenian-populated communities to listen to the opinion of Diaspora Armenians. Serzh Sargsyan presented the protocols directed toward normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations and noted that the negotiations do not include any precondition. "This is very difficult, painful but at the same time necessary process," he pointed out.

Caroline Cox was interested in the recent developments over Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation.



17. THE EFFICIENCY OF PROSECUTOR'S OVERSIGHT TASKED TO BE INCREASED [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Today a consultation took place in the Armenian Chief Prosecutor's office during which issues connected with prosecutor's oversight towards the activity of investigation bodies as well as accusation protection, results and flows of the law enforcement bodies in fight against corruptive phenomena as well as establishment of an atmosphere of intolerance against such phenomena have been discussed. The working and executive discipline of the system has also been referred to.

Press office of the Chief Prosecutor's office told Armenpress that stressing that the bases of implementation of crime policy in fight against criminality is the prosecutor's office the Armenian Attorney General gave concrete tasks towards increasing the efficiency of prosecutor's oversight towards legality of investigation as well as the working discipline and underscored that any prosecutor who has not properly implemented the prosecutor's functions will be imposed to penalty in accordance with the existing law.

Prosecutors heading the structural and territorial departments of the Armenian Chief Prosecutor's office were taking part in the consultation.

18. ACCORDING TO ARMAN MELIKIAN, LIBERATED TERRITORIES ARE REFUGEES' LOSSES COMPENSATION RESOURCE [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/17/09]

The territories of Soviet Azerbaijan which passed under the control of NKR Defence Army after the war are not subject to returning and are the compensation resources of Azeri Armenian refugees' losses. Former Foreign Minister of NKR Arman Melikian expressed such an opinion at a September 17 conference. According to him, if the Armenian sides in its time had expressed this position clearly, today there would not be any problems connected with the bargainings.

"Today it is the time when our basings on not returning or ceding the territories should be voiced loudly as a final decision which is not liable for reconsideration," A. Melikian said. According to him, in the coming year the authorities of Armenia and NKR have serious tasks to realize connected with this issue."

19. SHAVARSH KOCHARIAN: NECESSITY TO RECONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS' CONCEPTION CAN EMERGE [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/17/09]

RA Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharian considers that if Azerbaijan continues its destructive line, a necessity to reconsider Nagorno Karabakh negotiations' conception can emerge. "Madrid Principles can be a good basis for achieving settlement on the basis of compromises. However, the negotiations process, in my estimation, reaches a deadlock because of Azerbaijan's destructive position. Baku does not admit compromises and proceeds from the principle "everything or nothing," more exactly, "everything or war," Mr Kocharian said. At that, in his words, official Baku constantly takes steps increasing tension in the region.

In Deputy Minister's opinion, such policy of Azerbaijan leads the affair to a deadlock, and changing the conception of the negotiations process can be a way out of it, which will result in changing its format. "For more than a year Azerbaijan had been denying even existence of Madrid Principles though it had accepted them as a basis for negotiations. If Azerbaijan continues its destructive line, the window of current conception's possibilities can be closed."

S. Kocharian considers that the current format of negotiations, from which the main conflict side, Nagorno Karabakh Republic has been excluded, is consequence of harsh position of Azerbaijan, which in no way agrees to such participation though for years it had been conducting negotiations with the very Karabakh and concluded truce directly. Continuation of Baku's destructive policy will lead the negotiations process to a deadlock, and a necessity of changing the negotiations process' conception will emerge, which proceeds from the facts that Nagorno Karabakh people's realized right of self-determination is the basis of the problem and policy of massacres and ethnic cleansings of Armenian population and aggression against the Nagorno Karabakh Republic carried out by Azerbaijan is the basis of the conflict and its escalation.

"Under such a conception of the negotiations process Nagorno Karabakh's non-participation in it will look already absolutely unnatural," Mr Kocharian mentioned.

While, S. Kocharian admitted that parts of Madrid Principles "disclosed" in July create a possibility for NKR to become a subject of the process and for its participation in the negotiations. However, official Baku continues denying such a possibility and by doing so distorts problem's essence.



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If Azerbaijan with its statements does not try to predetermine the course and result of the negotiations process by the principle "everything or nothing," Madrid Principles can lead to a compromise admissible for all three conflict sides, Shavarsh Kocharian concluded.

20. GIRO MANOYAN: INDEED ARMENIAN AUTHORITIES WANT TO CONVINCING PEOPLE AND NOT TO DISCUSS ARMENIAN-TURKISH PROTOCOLS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/17/09]

Giro Manoyan, the Director of the International Secretariate (Central Hai Dat Office) of ARFD Bureau in Yerevan considers that indeed the discussions of the Armenian-Turkish protocols are not discussions, the RA authorities just want to "inform, to convince the people."

As he mentioned at a September 17 press conference, the goal of actions carried out by ARFD is to draw people's attention to weighty dangers those documents and the process in general pose. "If society has a possibility to get acquainted with problem's essence and not only to hear official agitation, it will really rise and not permit the authorities to sign these protocols," he said.

According to G. Manoyan, notification activities should be also carried out in the Diaspora. "In the Diaspora the general approach is that these protocols are against Armenia's interests. And even the organizations that at first were to some extent disposed positively have already made their position harsh," G. Manoyan said.

In his affirmation, with those documents, as well as with the current process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations Armenia in fact meets all three preconditions Turkey has put forward since 1991. They are: not demanding territories from Turkey, renouncing the process of international recognition of Armenian Genocide, and the Nagorno Karabakh problem. According to him, bright evidence of the latter is that Turkey has been declaring up to the present that no relations will be established with Armenia and the border will not be opened until the Nagorno Karabakh problem is settled.

Besides, according to G. Manoyan, ARFD is against ratification of the protocols by the parliament. "The executive power should assume responsibility. Such a document on establishment of diplomatic relations should not be compulsorily ratified by the parliament," he said.

21. U.S. AMBASSADOR VISITS ARZNI-SHAMIRAM MAIN CANAL REHABILITATION SITE [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/17/09]

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Ms. Marie Yovanovitch, RA Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Territorial Administration Armen Gevorgian, Minister of Agriculture Gerasim Alaverdian accompanied by Governor of Aragatsotn marz (province) Sargis Sahakian and Governor of Kotayk marz Kovalenko Shahgeldian visited on September 16 Arzni-Shamiram main canal being reconstructed under the Millennium Challenge Account-Armenia (MCA-Armenia) Program.

Arzni-Shamiram canal is one of the six main canals in Armenia to be reconstructed under "Irrigated Agriculture" component of the program.

Then they went to Karb community in Aragatsotn marz where new agricultural technologies were introduced recently. The MCA-Armenia Program finances the use of a gravity-fed irrigation system which allows farmers to improve efficiency.

The given community is one of many others where equipment purchased under the program has been installed. In addition, farmers have taken training courses on how to use their new knowledge in practice.

According to a press release submitted to NT, until now more than 30 thousand farmers from 300 communities in Armenia have been introduced to water management technologies under "Irrigated Agriculture" component of MCA-Armenia program. About 5,000 farmers from 60 communities in Kotayk and Aragatsotn marzes have undergone training.

22. GAGIK GHALACHYAN APPOINTED ARMENIAN AMBASSADOR TO GREECE [Azg, 09/18/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan signed a decree on dismissing Vahram Kozhoyan from the office of the ambassador of Greece, Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia and Slovenia.

The daily says with another decree Gagik Ghalachyan has been appointed Armenian ambassador to Greece (residence Athens).



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23. ARMENIAN AMBASSADOR AND EGYPTIAN MINISTER DISCUSS PROSPECTS OF BOOSTING COOPERATION [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

Armenian ambassador to Egypt Armen Melkonyan met September 7 with the Egyptian International Cooperation Minister, co-chair of the Armenian-Egyptian inter-governmental commission Fayza Abul Naga.

Foreign Ministry Media and Information Department told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides discussed prospects of development of trade-economic cooperation between Armenia and Egypt as well as referred to the issues on the 5th session of the Armenian-Egyptian inter-governmental commission scheduled for 2010 in Yerevan.

24. ARMENIAN OMBUDSMAN SAYS IT IS NECESSARY TO PICK UP LESSONS FROM WHAT HAPPENED MARCH 1-2 [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

It is necessary to pick up lessons from what happened March 1-2 2008 in Yerevan and undertake measures to avoid such cases in future, ombudsman Armen Harutyunyan said today at the meeting with the reporters.

Referring to the report of parliamentary ad hoc commission, he noted that in general it presents all the cause and effect links. The suggestions of the commission clearly reveal the causes which made people to apply to extreme measures. And to the question why the conclusion does not speak about those who are guilty for the death of the people, Harutyunyan said that the commission could not have done the work of the investigators: it is law enforcers who must give answers to this question.

The ombudsman also highlighted the suggestion on creating a monitoring group in the NA which must follow the implementation of the suggestions presented in the conclusion.

25. D. HAKOBYAN SAYS OPPOSITION MUST BACK PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

Armenia's current opposition must become a think-tank of political idea and back President Serzh Sargsyan so that with joint forces solution be given to the issue of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations, head of the Marxists Party David Hakobyan said today.

Referring to the yesterday's consultation conducted by the Armenian president the leader of the party said that the discussion passed in a healthy atmosphere and expressed assurance that the ideas voiced by him and his party fellows will help Armenian authorities to make right decision.

26. PARLIAMENTARY FACTIONS REFER TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE PRESENT ROUND OF REGULATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS INVITED ON THE INITIATIVE OF ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSIAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

During today's parliamentary briefings the NA factions referred to the consultation on the present round of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations which has been invited on the initiative of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

Member of "Orinats Yerkir" faction Hovhannes Margarian noted that the Party has always been for the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations and opening of the borders without any preconditions.

"We welcome the initiative of the President to invite the third in turn thematic consultation round the most important national issues to get informed about the opinion of all the parties," he said.

Heads of more than 5 dozen parties took part in the consultation and the discussions will still continue. The Party supports the issue to be discussed in different levels.

According to the Head of Armenian Revolutionary Federation faction Vahan Hovhannisian during the consultation the Head of the State has not excluded the opportunity of changes and the political power will continue the fight towards it.

The ARF will take part in the parliamentary hearings. Referring to the proposal of "Heritage" faction Larisa Alaverdian to adopt a parliamentary statement, V. Hovhannisian said that in such decisive moments everything can be useful; the factions will discuss the proposal of their partner.

According to the secretary of Prosperous Armenia fraction Aram Safarian they also gave their approval on the conduction of parliamentary hearings and their participation in them. A. Safarian noted that the Prosperous Armenia Party is for regulation of the relations with Turkey without preconditions and within commonsense period of time.



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According to the member of the Parliament the only obstacle in the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations remains the position existing in the Turkish political powers that the normalization of bilateral relations must be conditioned by the regulation of the Karabakh conflict.

"Even if the protocols are not ratified the process of opening of the borders will continue as we have adopted European standards according to which there must be no close borders," Head of the Armenian Republican Party fraction Galust Sahakian said.

He noted that he is principally for the expression of opposite opinions by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation.

Head of the "Heritage" party board Armen Martirosian, who did not take part in the consultation invited by the President noted that the discussions must be launched in the state institutions including the National Assembly, and that in October 1 Parliamentary hearings the fraction will present its position.

BUSINESS

27. 15 CHARITABLE PROJECTS DISCUSSED AT ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/16/09]

15 charitable projects were discussed during the September 11 sitting of the commission for the coordination of charitable projects of the RA government. In particular, the commission discussed and approved the following projects: Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's the Organization of a Milk Purchase Point at the School in Azatamut Village of Tavush Marz, and the Design of the Internal Irrigation Network of Border Villages in Tavush Marz; the Purchase of Bazalt Blocks for Construction of a Church in Yerevan's Erebuni District, and the Implementation of Reconstruction of Heating, Water Supply and Sewerage Systems in the Treasure House implemented by the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin; the Strengthening of the National Program on the Fight against Tuberculosis - by the RA Ministry of Health; and the 3rd stage of the Project on Construction of the New Subsidiary Building of the Matenadaran implemented by the Matenadaran Fund.

The commission also discussed and approved World Vision International-sponsored projects: on partial repairs of the preparatory school No 4 in Sarahart district in the city of Kapan of Syunik marz, on repairs of the lavatory at school No 8 in Tsgharshik district in the city of Kapan of Syunik marz, on construction of a playground in Artsvanik district in Syunik marz, on the installation of playgrounds at kindergartens in the villages of Sarukhan, Lanjaghbyur and Tsovazard in Gavar region of Gegharkunik marz, on the import and free distribution of humanitarian cargo in Alaverdi region, on the purchase of playgrounds for Yazdan and Hobarz communities in Lori marz, and the organization of Christian summer camps for children of the villages of Gandzak, Tsakhkashen, Sarukhan, Lanjaghbyur, Gegharkinik, Berdkunk, Hayravan and Tsovazard in Gavar region of Gegharkunik marz.

Among the issues put on the commission's agenda and approved at the sitting were also "Otevan" Christian Youth Association-implemented project on making and installation of windows at the college in the city of Goris in Syunik marz and the project on import and free distribution of goods by New Life Armenia Fund.

28. ARMENIAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTS IN FIRST READING PACKAGE OF TAX AMENDMENTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/16/09]

The RA National Assembly adopted in the first reading the revised package of tax amendments submitted by the government - at the first sitting of its autumn session on September 15. The preliminary version of the package had been discussed at the previous session, but on June 10 the government proposed postponing the vote by up to 15 days in order to hold joint discussions on the package by the parliamentary factions and the government and to revise it based on the discussions' results.

To recap, the package had been a subject of a heated debate and sharp criticism, mostly due to the addition to the Law on Taxes, by which it was envisaged introducing an institution of the representative of the tax body in big business.

Deputy Minister of Finance Suren Karayan said prior to the vote that the powers of the tax body's representative, as well as the scope of current tax control through this representative have been reduced to a minimum and regulated in the revised package.

73 NA deputies voted for the package of bills, 23 voted against it, and one deputy abstained from voting. Among those who voted against were the members of ARF and Heritage factions, some independent deputies, including former speaker of the National Assembly Tigran Torosian.



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The parliament also passed in the first reading the bill on making an addition to the Law on Scientific and Scientific-Technical Activity discussed previously.

The bill envisages honorary payments for full and corresponding members of the RA National Academy of Sciences who are engaged in scientific activity in Armenia, or carry out a mission abroad for a period of up to three months. Under the current law, the indicated honorary payment (its amount is established by the government) is a lifetime payment.

29. MARK LUIS SAYS GOVERNMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION OF OVERCOMING THE CRISIS IS VERY GOOD [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Armenian government's implementation of overcoming the crisis is very good and positive, head of the International Monetary Fund's mission in Armenia, IMF representative Mark Luis said today at the meeting with the reporters, adding that Armenian authorities are managing well the situation created in the country as a result of the global financial-economic crisis.

Armenia's economic environment is currently in difficult condition, the incomes have decreased like in other countries, nevertheless the Armenian government managed to preserve all the state and proceeding expenditures to be able to ensure big demand in the economy. For the further economic growth the Armenian authorities succeeded to get support from international establishments which had an important role for overcoming the situation.

M. Luis highlighted the money-crediting policy of the Armenian Central Bank. The stability in financing and crediting spheres the IMF representative explained with effective finance oversight steps directed toward "health" of the banking system.

Speaking about the 2010 draft budget M. Luis noted that with it an attempt is being made to maintain the balance of state debt and budget deficit. He said in case of increase of the tax incomes when the budget incomes go up, the state means for state expenditures will be more.

30. ACCORDING TO THE ASSESSMENT OF IMF REPRESENTATIVE, THE OPENING OF THE BORDER WITH TURKEY WILL HAVE A VERY FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE ARMENIAN ECONOMY [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

The opening of the border with Turkey will have a very favorable impact on the Armenian economy, as Turkey will be a large market for Armenia in regard to products and services, Mark Luis – the head of the mission of the International Monetary Fund having paid a visit to Armenia said at yesterday's press conference.

According to his assessment, in case of opening of the borders with the neighbor country transport expenses during the product turnover will be reduced, as a result of which the prices of the imported goods will directly decrease. It will contribute to the increase of the population's purchase capacity and of the level of living conditions. M. Luis suggested as well that as a consequence of the opening of the borders the competitiveness of Armenian companies will be improved, Armenia will get new opportunities of getting integrated to the region and of involving investments. Especially in the conditions of the crisis new opportunities of economic growth will open for Armenia.

31. ARMENIAN TRADE-INDUSTRIAL CHAMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Armenian Trade-Industrial Chamber will participate in the 86th international trade fair, which will be conducted from September 25 to October 5 in Marseilles. Numerous companies from different countries will present furniture, utensil, souvenirs, items of applied art, clothes, wine, food, materials for packaging, equipments for swimming pools, boats and other kinds of products.

Executive Director of the Trade-Industrial Chamber Arayik Vardanyan told Armenpress that 10 member-enterprises of the chamber, will present agricultural processed products, souvenirs and wine. The enterprises will present their products in one pavilion. According to A. Vardanyan, the participation in such authoritative exhibitions is of great importance to every employer. It enables to make a way to the market of the given country, as well as to sign contracts with other companies on place.



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32. CHAIRMAN OF THE BELGIAN SENATE AND ARMENIAN AMBASSADOR HIGHLIGHT STEPS DIRECTED TOWARD ECONOMIC COOPERATION [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Chairman of the Belgian Senate Arman de Deker received September 16 Armenian ambassador to Belgium Avet Adonts.

Armenian Foreign Ministry Media and Information Department told Armenpress that greeting the guest the chairman of the Senate said he is pleased with the tempo of development of bilateral relations. The interlocutors positively assessed the regular steps undertaken by the two countries for economic cooperation.

During the conversation the parties referred to the recent developments in Armenian-Turkish relations. The chairman of the Senate welcomed the progress registered in the Armenian-Turkish relations, highly underscoring the initiative of the Armenian president.

With the request of Arman de Deker the ambassador presented the current round of Karabakh conflict regulation.

During the meeting the sides also discussed the preparatory works of the coming visit of Arman de Deker to Armenia.

DIASPORA

33. THE MAJORITY OF DIASPORA ARMENIANS THIS YEAR PREFERRED TO STUDY IN STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY AFTER M. HERATSI [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Over 200 Diaspora Armenians from 19 countries have applied to RA Education and Science Ministry for studying in RA higher educational establishments. Leading professional of Diaspora Department subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Science Amalya Kocharyan said that this year the majority of the applicants – 48 people, has expressed wish to get education in State Medical University after M. Heratsi, and 39 applicants – in Yerevan State University. Many Diaspora students have applied also to Yerevan State Pedagogical University, State Conservatory after Komitas and State Academy of Fine Arts.

According to A. Kocharyan, this year 70 free places have been extended to the Diaspora students for studying in the faculties of Armenian studies, art and culture, but up to now 47 applicants have entered to the places with state order.

The majority of the Diaspora Armenians – 93 people, have come to Armenia from Georgia, particularly from Javakhk. Also many Diaspora Armenians from Russia – 52 people, have expressed wish to study in Armenian higher educational establishments.. For the first time on that purpose Diaspora Armenians from Poland, Serbia, Rumania and Spain have arrived in Armenia each by one and 3 applicants have arrived from Israel.

They have passed a knowledge checking test in the subjects intended for specialties they have chosen. The applicants will enter the pre-preparatory course without taking an exam. The applicants wishing to study in the pre-preparatory faculty may present their applications till November 6 inclusive, and for studying with the post-graduate program – till September 30.

ARTS

34. THE MOSCOW ARMENIAN THEATRE TO ARRIVE WITH TOUR PERFORMANCES [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

September 27-29 the Moscow Armenian Theatre will arrive in Yerevan with four performances dedicated to the 18-th anniversary of the independence of Armenia. An official from the Armenian Benevolent Fund for Culture Development told Armenpress that the theatre will come forward with "Vay, Vay" and "Fight" performances, which will be staged at the "House of Moscow", National State Theater and at the military units of the Armenian Defense Ministry.

35. THE "EREBUNI-YEREVAN" FESTIVAL TO BE CELEBRATED OCTOBER 10 [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

This year the "Erebuni-Yerevan" festival will be celebrated on October 10. Public relations department of Yerevan Municipality told Armenpress that before the start of the events, that day



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beginning from early morning points of informational support will open, where Yerevan people and the guests from foreign countries can get information about the events.

According to the organizational committee of the "Erebuni-Yerevan" festival, various cultural and sport events are intended to be held at the festival; Mashtots Avenue will turn into a sport stadium, where a race will be held. The length of the area for running will correspond to the symbolic number of that day – to 2791. A demonstrative contest of windsurfing, as well as of national "kokh" will be held in the Swan Lake. The Northern Avenue will turn into "a city of masters"; the masters will make sculptures from clay in the workshops located in the open air.

In the evening in Republic Square representatives of Armenian music art, as well as foreign singers will perform on the occasion of the anniversary of the "old and young" capital. The festival will be concluded with a firework.

36. "ARMFEST" INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL TO KICK OFF OCTOBER 1 [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

"Armfest" 7th international executive art festival will kick off October 1 in Yerevan. Coordinator of the festival Shoghakat Mlke-Galstyan told Armenpress that 33 theatrical groups from 22 countries will participate in the festival, among which are Bulgarian "Credo", Swiss "Trickster Theatre", "Artishok" from Kazakhstan which is known with its open-air performances with the participation of the audience as well. In the sidelines of the festival master classes and workshops will be conducted and discussions will be held over new theatrical directions and ways of expression. Like during the previous year this time as well international Children and Puppet theatres program and "Armfest" Armenian international students and youth program will be held.

The main goal of the "Armfest" festival is to present global culture in Armenia and promote development of theatrical art. The festival was established in 2003.

37. CONCERT OF RUSSIAN AND ARMENIAN ROCK BANDS TO BE HELD TODAY [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

A traditional annual concert will be held today in Charles Aznavour square with the participation of Armenian and Russian rock bands. An official from the Moscow House told Armenpress that two rock bands from Russia – "Epidemia" and "Corsica" and two from Armenia "Nairi" and "Eva" will perform for the public.

This is the second year the Moscow House organizes joint concerts of Armenian and Russian rock bands.

38. EXHIBITION "ARMENPRESS: 90 YEARS WITH ARMENIA" OPENS IN GAVAR [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

Exhibition "Armenpress: 90 Years with Armenia", traveling round in the provinces of the republic, opened today in the provincial center of Gegharkunik – Gavar.

The exhibition, which has kicked off within the framework of the festivities dedicated to the 90th anniversary of "Armenpress", includes over 100 pictures selected from the rich photo-archive of the agency presenting the notable events of the 3 republics of Armenia, the renowned figures of science, culture and sports, sightseeing pictures and interesting episodes. "The significant events of the 3 republics of Armenia have been reflected not only in news outlets, press, in the pages of books, in television and radio broadcasts, but in thousands of photos as well. They represent numerous interesting episodes from the history of Armenian people; luminous and difficult, heroic and tragic events", Gegharkunik's Vice-Governor Artush Ghukasyan noted in his opening speech. According to his assessment, the exhibition of photos aims to present to the public and particularly to the youth the exclusive moments of our way passed in the last nine decades, as well as the significant public initiatives.

The exhibition, which has opened in the hall of "Gavar's Educative Center", will operate till September 25. It has already been presented to the public lovers of Yerevan, Hrazdan and Ashtarak.

39. DAYS OF EUROPEAN HERITAGE TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 19-20 IN DIFFERENT MUSEUMS OF THE REPUBLIC [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

Days of European heritage to be organized September 19-20 in the republic which will this year be held under the Milky Way slogan.



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Armenian Deputy Culture Minister Arev Samvelian told today journalists that this is already the fourth year the Days of European heritage in Armenia are held within the frameworks of which different events will be organized.

A new exhibition will be organized in the Armenian History museum under the "Space Symbols" slogan. A music evening will be held in the A. Khachatrian's museum during which the "Birth of Vahagn" violin concert will sound.

Hovh. Toumanian's museum will organize "Trip to the favorite places of the poet" pilgrimage to Dsegh village, and in the "Erebuni" historical-archeological reserve-museum the "Monuments of Historical Armenia" photos will be exhibited. An exhibition of archeological materials of the 1 era B.C. will open in the Yerevan history museum.

The most prominent event within the frameworks of the European Days will be the pilgrimage from Yerevan to the "Dzorats Karer" settlement in Syunik province which is known with "Karahung" name. Here the "Karin" ethnographic song and dance ensemble will perform after which in the Sisian history museum after Adonts "Our celebrants" exhibition will open. At the same place "Bread Holiday" traditional event will be held.

The organized events are nearly concurrent and aim to more involve Yerevan and province residents in the cultural events. Each year the events have different slogans; this year's agenda has a rather interesting slogan and program," the Deputy Minister said.

49 member states of the European Cultural Agreement partake in the events of Days of European Heritage.

RELIGION

40. CATHOLICOS KAREKIN II RECEIVES RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II received today Russian ambassador to Armenia Vyacheslav Kovalenko.

An official from the Holy See of St. Etchmiadzin told Armenpress that greeting the newly appointed ambassador in the spiritual center of Armenia, the Catholicos wished success to Kovalenko in his mission, expressing hope that during his tenure the relations between the two friendly peoples will become more close and consolidated.

His Holiness also referred to the warm and brotherly relations between the Armenian Apostolic Church and Russian Orthodox Church.

The ambassador thanked the Catholicos for warm reception and wishes and referred to the Armenian-Russian ties and future programs of the embassy.

SOCIAL

41. 315 CONVICTS RELEASED UNDER AMNESTY AS OF SEPTEMBER 11 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/16/09]

Under the Decision on Announcing an Amnesty taken by the RA National Assembly on June 19, 315 convicts were released from prisons of the RA Ministry of Justice as of September 11.

According to the Ministry of Justice, 62 convicts were released from Nubarashen prison, 25 from Artik prison, 21 from Vanadzor prison, 6 from Goris prison, 66 from Erebuni prison, 35 from Sevan prison, one convict from Yerevan-Kentron prison, 32 from Kosh prison, 26 from Vardashen prison, 8 from the Hospital of Convicts, 8 from Abovian prison's section of women, 3 from Abovian prison's section of juvenile offenders, 4 from open correctional facilities, 8 from Hrazdan prison, and 10 convicts from Meghri prison.

42. DRAFT STRATEGY OF DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC SPHERE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

The draft strategy of the development of Armenia's scientific sphere, developed by the State Science Committee of the Education and Science Ministry and National Academy of Sciences, will be presented to the Armenian government. Head of the committee Samvel Harutyunyan said today at the discussion of the document that this strategic project will serve as a ground for developing strategic programs of development of the sphere for 2011-2015 and 2016-2020. These programs will be



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implemented with the combination of efforts of the government, private sector, civil society institutes and Diaspora.

Presenting the current state of the scientific sphere, the existing issues and targets, Harutyunyan said that the priorities refer to the involvement of youth in different scientific programs, opportunities of keeping them in their country through it.

The strategy also registers the privileged conditions of young specialists dealing with science connected with a number of financial-economic issues.

Issues connected with the development of Armenology have also been singled out for the solution of which a separate state strategic program is necessary. The issues in the sphere are different starting from work of scientific and scientific-educational organizations to effective usage of financial and human resources.

The participants of the discussion also referred to the payment of employees of the sphere and grant provisions.

Deputy education and science minister Ara Avetisyan said that the document with minor corrections and amendments must be presented to the approval of the government and it must oblige that the future programs be developed in collaboration for making them more concrete and realistic.

At the end of the discussion it was decided to give a week to scientific organizations for presenting their suggestions after which the draft will be summed up and presented for the discussion of the government.

43. TELETHON 2009 TO START ON NOVEMBER 26 IN LOS ANGELES [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/16/09]

Hayastan All Armenian Fund's annual telethon will be held on November 26 this year. It will start at 8:00 am in Los Angeles and will last 12 hours. As Fund's Executive Director Ara Vardanian reported at a September 16 press conference, the raised funds will be spent mainly on implementation of development programs in Shoushi.

A. Vardanian said that a phonethon will be held in Europe before the telethon, during which nearly 600 young people will ring up European-based Armenians. Phonethon's initiator and coordinator is Fund's French structure.

The Executive Director expressed the hope that the economic crisis will have no impact on telethon's results. He is sure that this year the raised funds will exceed last year's indices. A. Vardanian mentioned that this year new kinds of fund raisings will be held in Armenia and Russia. "The possibility of organizing a charity dinner in Russia is being discussed at present," he said.

In response to the question of whether the current process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations can have a bad impact on assistance received from the Diaspora A. Vardanian said: "We try to avoid any political discussions. And the person, who decides to provide funds proceeding from his political orientation cannot be considered Armenian as there is one more problem here: the Republic of Armenia and NKR need assistance."

44. VARIOUS PROGRAMS BEING CARRIED OUT IN A NUMBER OF ARMENIAN COMMUNITIES ON THE INITIATIVE OF "HAYASTAN" ALL-ARMENIAN FUND [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

On the initiative of "Hayastan" all-Armenian fund various programs are being carried out in a number of Armenian communities. Executive Director of the fund Ara Vardanyan said yesterday that construction works of water net and water supply system are being carried out in the communities of Dzoramat, Khashtarak, Lusahovit, Ditavan, Nrnadzor and Aknaghbyur presenting different provinces. "We carry out these programs with the support of different sponsors representing Armenian Diaspora.

Besides the water supply works, school-construction programs are carried out as well, he said. Particularly, the schools of Artsn village, Khashtarak community, as well as the gym hall of N 2 School of the town of Spitak are being reconstructed. According to Vardanyan, the secondary schools of Armenia and Artsakh are being furnished as well. "This extensive program has started in April 2009. Its goal is to provide 5000 pupils of the schools of Armenia and Artsakh with school property. The program intends a purchase and replacement of bookcases, pupil desks, blackboards and hooks. All the property is being made in Armenia – in the factory established in Gyumri, which means that over a dozen of employees will be ensured with short-term jobs thanks to the program", A. Vardanyan said. The cost of the program is 180 million 295 thousand AMD.

On the initiative of the fund the hospital of the town of Noyemberyan is being reconstructed as well. "The hospital is the only health care center in the town, which serves to the population of the town. The project includes the integral reconstruction of the hospital including the polyclinics, the ambulance



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department, the surgery, the birth department, as well as the departments of therapy, gynecology, infection and administration. After the reconstruction the hospital is intended to serve over 1 700 patients", A. Vardanyan said.

The fund has also undertaken the reconstruction of Yerevan Medical Center of the Holy Virgin, as well as the construction of the cardiology hospital of the town of Goris. "The presence of a hospital corresponding to the up-to-date high standards will enable not only the residents of Goris, but of Syunik province and other towns and villages of Artsakh to get high quality medical service on place", A. Vardanyan.

45. ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF ABOUT 6 KM GO ON IN ARARAT PROVINCE [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

The road construction works of overall 6 km 52 m length go on in the province of Ararat with the state budget means.

Deputy Governor of Ararat Ashot Muradyan told Armenpress that the construction works have started according to their chronology and till December the works will be accomplished in the sector of "Verin Dvin-Nerqin Dvin" of "Berqanush-Dvin" road, in the 1, 9 km sector of the road "Yerevan-Artashat-Aygavan" of Artashat town having a republican significance, in the sector of "Burastan-Azatakan-Artashat" of "Yerevan-Artashat-Aygavan" road of republican significance, in the sectors of "Kanachut-Arevshat" and "Mrgavet-Arevshat" of province significance, as well as in the sectors of "Republic Road-Vedi Wine Factory-Banavan".

The government has extended 1 billion 495 million AMD for carrying out the construction works in the above-mentioned road sectors.

46. A NEW OPTIC-FIBER CABLE TO ENTER THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC ACROSS THE GEORGIA-ARMENIA HIGHWAY WITH WHICH AN INTERNET COMMUNICATION WILL BE PROVIDED TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

During today's session the Armenian Government approved the draft decision "On construction of optic-fiber cable in the areas related to a number of vehicle roads.

Armenian Transport and Communication Minister Gurgun Sargsyan noted that the adoption of the decision is conditioned by the necessity to ensure the territory of the republic with additional internet communication.

With the decision the "GNC-ALFA" company will be provided with opportunity across the Georgia-Armenia highway to construct a new optic-fiber cable which will satisfy the existing as well as predicted demand of the internet communication for the few upcoming years, will improve the competition environment in the sphere contributing to the decrease of the prices for internet services.

According to the minister it will also have a positive impact on the quality of services provided in Armenia.

In response to the question of Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan the Transport and Communication Minister informed that the company will enter the internet supply market within 18 month.

47. ARA BABLOYAN ELECTED A MEMBER OF WHO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Session of the European regional committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) took place September 15 in Copenhagen, capital of Denmark with the participation of representatives of 53 states.

Public relations department of Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that from the European region the representatives of Armenia and Norway have been elected members of WHO highest executive committee.

From Armenia member of WHO highest executive committee which functions in Geneva has been elected the Chairperson of the NA permanent commission for the health, maternity and children's affairs, Professor Ara Babloyan.

48. A DAY OF OPEN DOORS TO BE DECLARED IN BYURAKAN OBSERVATORY AFTER V. HAMBARDZUMYAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

A day of open doors will be declared September 18 in Byurakan Observatory on the occasion of the 101-th anniversary of the astrophysicist Victor Hambardzumyan. Director of the Observatory Hayk



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Harutyunyan told Armenpress that day all the operating telescopes, including the telescope of 2,6 m. mirror diameter, as well as V. Hambardzumyan's House-Museum will be open for the visitors.

That day also the international scientific contest after V. Hambardzumyan will be declared, which has been set in 2009.

A commission consisting of 9 people has been set up with a three year term for the purpose of electing the award candidate. The award will be given once in two years, it will be given for prominent scientific works in the spheres of astrophysics, physics, and mathematics irrespective of the citizenship. The award will be 500 000 USD equivalent to AMD.

49. THE PILOT ROUND OF "COMPUTER FOR EVERYONE" PROJECT KICKS OFF [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

The pilot round of "Computer for Everyone" project kicked off today in Yerevan. Head of the "Enterprise Incubator" foundation Bagrat Yengibarian noted that the project aims to spur the spread of computers in Armenia, to increase the electronic literacy in Armenia, contribute to the establishment of information society and development of IT sphere as well as to boost the use of internet.

According to him, the project is targeted to increase the level of awareness of the society in the IT sphere, to settle the issue of the society for satisfying the demand for computers and availability of internet link by creating opportunities of buying qualitative computers on available prices.

Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsian said the project is very important and opens great opportunities for the society. "It is impossible to live without a computer in the 21st century. We aim during the upcoming 5-10 years to bring the computer and internet availability in the state in line with the international standards. All of us must be involved in this program, to describe people and encourage them," the Minister noted.

According to him in case of interest the Government can make more serious steps.

Head of the Armenian office of Microsoft Grigor Barseghian noted that the computer and internet is available for only 1/6 part of world population, and only 10% of the Armenians. He said the project will enable to ensure an electronic equality.

The "Computer for Everyone" project is being implemented under the sponsorship of Armenian Economy Ministry, "Enterprise Incubator" foundation, Armenian branch of Microsoft Company, "Hulet Packard" company and ACBA Credit Agricole Bank.

50. BAKO SAHAKYAN PARTICIPATES IN RE-CONSECRATION OF ST. MINAS CHURCH [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

On September 17 President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Bako Sahakyan partook at a solemn ceremony of re-consecration XVII century St.Minas church in a village of Hak, located in North-West of the Kashatagh region.

Central Information Department of the Office of NKR President told Armenpress that the Head of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, speaker of the National Assembly Ashot Ghoullyan, guests from the Republic of Armenia and other countries partook at the event.

51. EDUCATION AND SCIENCE MINISTER A. ASHOTIAN AND BARONESS COX DISCUSS ISSUES CONNECTED WITH THE INCREASE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY OF THE HIGHER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Armenian Education and Science Minister Armen Ashotian received today the member of House of Lords of the United Kingdom parliament baroness Caroline Cox.

An official from Armenian Education and Science ministry told Armenpress that welcoming the guest the minister expressed his gratification to the baroness for her long and consistent activity to the contribution of the internationalization of the issues of the Armenian people, particularly for the great moral and material assistance shown to Artsakh.

The Minister and Caroline Cox discussed the issues connected with the increase of the international authority of higher professional education in Armenia and the ways to their solution.

"Reforms implemented in the higher professional education sphere are directed toward the increase of the quality of education which is useful for the state and the society as well as for each student," the Minister said.



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The baroness noted that she is interested in organization of education of foreign students in Armenian higher educational establishments and the increase of the international rating of the Armenian educational establishments and her activity is also directed toward settlement of the mentioned issues.

At the end of the meeting A. Ashotian presented baroness with an illustrated book presenting Armenian and Artsakh historical-cultural monuments and a video on the Jugha cross-stones.

Baroness promised that she will watch the video with her partners in the House of Lords. Mrs. Cox presented the Minister with one of her books on world global developments, which was translated into Russian.

52. MONUMENT TO VICTIMS OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE TO BE BUILT IN MOSCOW [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/17/09]

A regular sitting of the Commission on Monumental Art took place at the Moscow city дума (council) on September 8. The commission examined the proposal on creating a sculptural composition dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. The proposal was submitted by the Union of Armenians in Russia, Yerkrmas newspaper of Armenians in Russia reported.

The commission members expressed an opinion that given the readiness of the initiators to assume the financial obligations for construction of the monument, it is expedient to instruct the Moscow city дума to include the above mentioned proposal in the list of proposals for construction of works of monumental-decorative art of city importance. The sculptural composition dedicated to the victims of the Genocide committed in Turkey will be set up next to the Mother Cathedral (currently under construction) of the Armenian Apostolic Church's Diocese of Russia and Nor Nakhijevan (at the crossroads of Trifonovskaya Street and Olimpiyski Avenue in Moscow).

53. COPIES OF DOCUMENTS ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF ANDRANIK AND NZHDEH GIVEN TO HISTORY MUSEUM OF ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/17/09]

The copies of numerous documents about the activities of the national heroes Andranik Ozanian and Garegin Nzhdeh have been given to the History Museum of Armenia and the National Archive. These documents of great importance are kept at repositories of Bulgaria's National Agency of Archives.

According to the website of the RA Ministry of Culture, the ceremony of handing the documents' copies over to the Armenian side was held on September 10 with the participation of Bulgarian Ambassador to Armenia Todor Staykov and Armenian Ambassador to Bulgaria Sergey Manasarian.

54. FIRST FORM OF ARMENIAN SCHOOL OF BATUMI HAS ONLY 2 PUPILS THIS YEAR [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/17/09]

The first form of Armenian school N 6 in Batumi, Ajaria has only 2 pupils in 2009-2010 school-year, and one of them is a Georgian, the statement of the Armenian community of Ajaria read.

The authors of the statement think that the fact that the number of the attenders of the school decreases year after year causes anxiety. Nevertheless, the leadership of the community spares no efforts to resist the assimilation and to spur the education of the Armenian children in the Armenian spirit.

55. COMMANDER VAZGEN SARGSYAN'S MEMORIAL TO BE PUT UP IN ARARAT [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

The ceremonial opening of the memorial of Armenian Commander Vazgen Sargsyan, as well as the celebration of the 18-th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia will take place on September 21 in the urban park of Ararat.

Ararat Mayor Abraham Babayan told Armenpress that high-ranking officials of the republic, V. Sargsyan's friends, guests and just citizens from all the provinces of the republic have been invited. The memorial will be consecrated by the Catholicos of all-Armenians. A festive concert, military march and firework will be held as well.

That day the urban park will be named after V. Sargsyan.



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SPORTS

56. ARMENIAN JUNIOR TENNIS PLAYERS TO PARTICIPATE IN "ORANGE BALL" INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Armenian junior tennis players Lilit Vardanyan and Michael Khachatryan will participate in the authoritative international tennis tournament of "Orange Ball", which will take place in December in U.S. State of Florida. An official from the Armenian Tennis Federation told Armenpress that the invitation of taking part in that tournament is already an honor for our tennis players.

57. LEVON ARONYAN TO TAKE PART IN MIKHAIL TAL MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT [ARMENPRESS, 09/17/09]

Grand master Levon Aronyan will participate in the traditional international memorial tournament after world champion Mikhail Tal scheduled for November 4-19 in Moscow.

Grand masters Vishvanatan Anand from India, Vladimir Kramnik, Alexander Morozevich, Pyotr Swidler from Russia, Boris Gelfand from Israel, Vassili Ivanchuk from Ukraine and other distinguished chess players will take part in the tournament.

58. THIRTEEN ARMENIAN ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 6-TH FRANCOPHONE GAMES [ARMENPRESS, 09/18/09]

Thirteen Armenian athletes will participate in the 6-th Francophone Games to be held from September 27 to November 6 in the capital of Lebanon – Beirut. The Armenian athletes will take part in the competitions of 4 sport types – boxing, athletics, judo and table tennis, head of RA sport delegation, head of the department of RA Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs Yeghishe Davtyan told Armenpress. He noted that the Armenian sport delegation will leave for Beirut on September 25.

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