



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Thursday, April 30, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ON ARMENIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

"Ninety four years ago, one of the great atrocities of the 20th century began. Each year, we pause to remember the 1.5 million Armenians who were subsequently massacred or marched to their death in the final days of the Ottoman Empire. The Meds Yeghern must live on in our memories, just as it lives on in the hearts of the Armenian people.

History, unresolved, can be a heavy weight. Just as the terrible events of 1915 remind us of the dark prospect of man's inhumanity to man, reckoning with the past holds out the powerful promise of reconciliation. I have consistently stated my own view of what occurred in 1915, and my view of that history has not changed. My interest remains the achievement of a full, frank and just acknowledgment of the facts.

The best way to advance that goal right now is for the Armenian and Turkish people to address the facts of the past as a part of their efforts to move forward. I strongly support efforts by the Turkish and Armenian people to work through this painful history in a way that is honest, open, and constructive. To that end, there has been courageous and important dialogue among Armenians and Turks, and within Turkey itself. I also strongly support the efforts by Turkey and Armenia to normalize their bilateral relations. Under Swiss auspices, the two governments have agreed on a framework and roadmap for normalization. I commend this progress, and urge them to fulfill its promise.

Together, Armenia and Turkey can forge a relationship that is peaceful, productive and prosperous. And together, the Armenian and Turkish people will be stronger as they acknowledge their common history and recognize their common humanity.

Nothing can bring back those who were lost in the Meds Yeghern. But the contributions that Armenians have made over the last ninety-four years stand as a testament to the talent, dynamism and resilience of the Armenian people, and as the ultimate rebuke to those who tried to destroy them. The United States of America is a far richer country because of the many Americans of Armenian descent who have contributed to our society, many of whom immigrated to this country in the aftermath of 1915. Today, I stand with them and with Armenians everywhere with a sense of friendship, solidarity, and deep respect".

2. NA SPEAKER CALLS TWO ARFD CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES FOR WITHDRAWING THEIR APPLICATIONS ON RESIGNATION [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 04/29/09]

RA NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamian at the April 29 sitting proposed Artur Aghabekian, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of Defence, National Security and Internal Affairs, and Armen Rustamian, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations, withdrawing their applications on resignation. NA Vice-Speaker Hrayr Karapetian also introduced a resignation conditioned by the ARFD decision on coming out of the coalition on April 27.

The NA Speaker said that the Armenian parliament had precedents when opposition representatives headed standing committees, and such a possibility is also given by the amendments made to the NA Regulations in 2008 October. According to H. Abrahamian, though these amendments will work for the parliament of next convocation, today the political coalition calls the ARFD faction for withdrawing the applications on committee chairmen's resignation.

In response to the proposal ARFD faction head, party Bureau member Vahan Hovhannisian thanked the NA Speaker and the political coalition for the proposal and on behalf of the faction promised to study the proposal and to submit the answer to the parliament.

3. ACCORDING TO SOCIOMETRE, GAGIK BEGLARIAN HAS HIGHEST RATING AMONG CANDIDATES FOR YEREVAN MAYOR'S POST [Azg, 04/29/09]

The Sociometre sociological center held a survey on April 18-19 with the participation of 1650 Yerevan residents. As center Director said at the April 29 press conference, the number of participants of the May 31 Yerevan Council of Elders elections will make nearly 42.8%. In his words, RPA member



Gagik Beglarian has the highest rating among candidates for Mayor's post. 26.5% respondents considered him to be worthy of that post. He is followed by RPA leader Levon Ter-Petrosian, 7.6% and BH candidate Haroutiun Kushkian, 5.7%.

According to A. Adibekian's observation, OYP and ARFD are in the fourth place. In his words, the latest political developments, in particular, the fact of ARFD's coming out of the ruling coalition, can have both positive and negative impact on ARFD's rating. According to the sociologist, Sociometre also plans to hold two more surveys. However, one thing is clear for A. Adibekian: "Much will depend on the way the parties will organize their election campaigns." In his opinion, the party that will present more social programs will have a higher rating.

4. NA AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON EVENTS OCCURRED ON 1 MARCH MEETS WITH THREE CITIZENS RECEIVING INJURIES [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

The NA Ad-hoc Committee on Events Occurred on 1-2 March in Yerevan invited to its April 28 meeting three citizens who received injuries in the vicinity of Grigor Lusavorich street and Mashtots Avenue on March 1.

According to Committee's preliminary data, all three were injured by the Cheryomukha - 7 special means used by law enforcement bodies. However, two of them, Vazgen Haroutiunian and Sureh Hovhannisian, stated that they do not know yet by what arms they were injured, as medical conclusions only mention that they received splinter injuries from fire-arms.

Ararat region resident V. Haroutiunian, who served at a training company of Avan police troops in the period when the events happened, was injured in his knee and was operated on. He testified that a small group of people in masks behind them fired with luminous bullets.

Resident of Gyumri S. Hovhannisian was going from the Ayrarat fair to the scene of action, where he was injured in his head. He said that before being injured he felt a smell, which, in the opinion of committee members, is evidence that nevertheless, the cause of injury was Cheryomukha.

The third citizen, resident of Khor Virap (Ararat region) Khachik Davtian was among the rally participants. He was injured in his shin by Cheryomukha and according to the medical conclusion, received a grave injury dangerous for his life and was operated on. K. Davtian said that before the operation he saw at least 15-20 injured or perished, witnessed a citizen's death from an injury in his head. At the same time he refuted the fact of presence of a jaw on the crossroad, which was depicted in the video material on those events.

Khachatur Davtian also said that before he had recovered, with a plaster on his leg, some people took him to Prosecutor General's Office and "with threats and bad language" tried to make him write that a certain resident of Ararat with the nickname "Marzpet" organized his participation in rallies, whom K. Davtian does not know, thus he did not give such evidence.

5. IT IS ENVISAGED ORGANIZING SERVICE IN RA POLICE ALSO BY PRINCIPLE OF OFFICIALS' ROTATION [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

The RA National Assembly at the April 29 sitting in the first reading adopted a bill On Making Addenda and Amendment to the Law On Service in the Police. Thus, it is envisaged organizing service in the police also by the principle of officials' rotation.

According to the main reporter, Deputy Head of RA Police Hovhannes Hunanian, the envisaged amendments will give the Police Head a possibility to move officials on posts subject to rotation to respective posts at another subdivision at least once every three years, which will reduce corruption risks. The officials' list subject to rotation and the order of rotation will be established by government's decision.

Another amendment envisages holding police officials' attestation on the basis of their official characteristics, through testing and an interview, which, according to H. Hunanian, will exclude possible subjective manifestations to police officials subject to attestation.

The parliament in the second reading and completely adopted a package of amendments to the valid laws On Police Troops and On Police. Thus, reforms and structural changes are planned in the system, the activity sphere of police troops is made clear. Legislative package's goal is to gradually pass from compulsory military service to contract military service in police troops by completing the process in 2012, as well as to separate police troops from police administrative structure as an institution by making it an individual part of the system.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Thursday, April 30, 2009

6. KAN SOYAK: SERZH SARGSIAN MIGHT TRAVEL VIA ARMENIAN-TURKISH BORDER TO WATCH FOOTBALL MATCH IN TURKEY [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsian will likely travel to Turkey via Armenian-Turkish border to watch a football match between national teams of Armenia and Turkey in October. This was stated by Kaan Soyak, Turkish co-chairman of the Turkish-Armenian Business Council (TABC), in the interview to CNN Turk.

"The greatest wish of Sargsian is to cross the border into Turkey to watch the football game. He wants this come true. I believe this can take place.", stated Soyak.

"There is a "road map", which is a product of joint efforts of Armenia and Turkey. On appropriate time and the points of that roadmap will be quickly implemented. This is very important ", said the Turkish co-chairman of the Turkish-Armenian Business Council. Touching upon Azerbaijani factor in the region Soyak stressed that without Azerbaijan it is impossible to settle peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

"Involving of Azerbaijan in the peace process is very important. The problem requiring an urgent solution is a gradual withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied territories. Actually, in Caucasus it is impossible to speak about peace without Azerbaijan ", stated Kaan Soyak.

7. 250 THOUSAND SIGNATURES COLLECTED IN KAYSERI, PLACE OF TURKEY'S PRESIDENT BIRTH, AGAINST OPENING OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH BORDER [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

Around 250 thousand signatures have been collected in Kayseri, where Turkey's president Abdullah Gul's was born, against opening of the Armenian-Turkish border.

According to the "Huriet" daily, hundreds of thousands of signatures collected during the campaign organized by the Turkish nongovernmental Turk Egitim - Sen organization entitled "Let not open the border with Armenia: I don't want to see in my town my brother's killer," will be submitted to the parliament of the country.

8. ARMENIAN REVOLUTIONARY FEDERATION ADOPTS THE SUGGESTION OF THE POLITICAL COALITION [Yerkir, 04/30/09]

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation has adopted the suggestion of the political coalition and the heads of NA Permanent Commissions of Foreign Relations and Defense, national security and home affairs Armen Rustamian and Arthur Aghabekian will preserve their offices. Head of the ARF faction Vahan Hovhannisian informed today about this.

He noted that, being in opposition, the ARF "is for and will fight that the opposition has more and more check and balance mechanisms working with the authorities".

"The powerful opposition also strengthens the statehood. Based on this approach and considering that the step aims at recovery of the political field we adopt the suggestion of the coalition", - V. Hovhannisian noted.

He reminded that during the parliament of this calling there has already been such an attempt, the coalition has made such a suggestion (the political coalition suggested the "Heritage" faction to head one of the permanent commissions but the faction refused) and the ARF greets that the three forces of the political coalition are ready to remain loyal to these principles and approaches.

"We are willing to input a new culture into the political relations of Armenia", - the head of the fraction said.

The NA Vice Speaker Hrayr Karapetian and Heads of NA Commissions presented applications of resignation April 27 and according to the "NA Regulation" law in case the application is not withdrawn within three days it will be considered adopted.

9. DELEGATION OF CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO VISIT YEREVAN MAY 4-5 [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

A 3-member delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will visit Yerevan May 4-5 in view of the first elections for the City Council in Yerevan, which will be held on 31 May 2009.

An official from the Division of Communication, International Relations and Election Observation of the Congress in Yerevan told Armenpress that the delegation will consist of Congress Vice-President Fabio Pellegrini (Italy, SOC), Michel Guégan (France, NR) and Nigel Mermagen (UK, ILDG) who will hold



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Thursday, April 30, 2009

meetings with candidates running for the election of mayor, representatives of government, opposition and electoral bodies, the Armenian Congress delegation, as well as with the media and NGOs.

10. H. KARAPETIAN REFUSES FROM THE OFFICE OF NA VICE SPEAKER [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

“The offices of heads of NA permanent commissions are elective, people elect the political power or person and the parliament elects them for the office. And after all it is a stage to say what we want and we do not want to reject this stage and I think the opportunities of heads of commissions who have a right to organize hearings and discussions on different issues will be used for this aim. Therefore in this respect we consider the refusal unreasonable”, - head of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) faction told today journalists commenting on the fact of approving the suggestion of the political coalition to preserve the offices of heads of NA permanent commissions.

According to him finally a new political culture is being inputted in Armenia for the first time when the opposition and authorities do not regard each other as deadly enemies and do not fight for killing each other.

“The time will show whether it is possible to implement this model in Armenia, which we will now try to: nothing is excluded but I think that the wisdom of the authorities as well as the opposition will give an opportunity to settle the political disputes through political methods”, - he noted.

Referring to the NA Vice Speaker Hrayr Karapetian, V. Hovhannissian said that he will not withdraw the application of his resignation and will resign from the office.

V. Hovhannissian clarified that the office of NA vice Speaker is a ruling post; during the absence of NA Speaker he manages the parliament and not only has a function of chairing the sessions but also signing of decrees.

Commenting on the news according to which the Head of NA permanent commission on Defense, national security and home affairs Arthur Aghabekian refuses from the post, V. Hovhannissian noted that irrespective of the ARF decision to come out of the coalition A. Aghabekian had a personal decision of resignation “but A. Aghabekian is a serviceman and party person and he has implemented the party decision and time will show what will be in the future”.

BUSINESS

11. AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “THE IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS ON ARMENIA: SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM PROSPECTS” TO BE HELD IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

The international conference on “The impact of the global economic crisis on Armenia: short-term and long-term prospects” will be held July 7-8 in Yerevan which aims at analyzing the impact of world financial crisis on Armenia through involvement of wide circles of population, working out scenarios of confronting the results of the crisis, etc.

During today’s press conference the Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsian informed that the presentation of the experience of developing and transiting states to the policy makers during the conference will give an opportunity to discover the flaws of economic policy the abolition of which will contribute to the further increase of tempos of the Armenian economic growth.

The conference is being organized by the Armenian group of international economic researches. A member of the executive council of the Group Heggine Manasian said that high ranking representatives of International Monetary Fund, specialists of the World Bank, and other international organizations as well as officials and experts of economic research organizations from Romania, Ukraine, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Russia and Latvia have been invited to Armenia for participation in the conference.

During the two-day conference discussions will be held on “The results of world financial and economic crisis on developing and transiting economies and lessons for Armenia”, “The impact of the crisis on Armenia and the efficiency of the policy of the government for overcoming the results of the crisis”, “Prospects of the economic growth of Armenia and improvement of competition” and “The economic consequences of opening the border with Turkey and the new role of Armenia in the region” themes.

The conference will be open for all the researchers; the participation of professor’s staff of the republic is also intended.

The conduction of the conference is supported by the Armenian Government.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Thursday, April 30, 2009

DIASPORA

12. THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OF ENGLAND ADDRESSED A CLAIM LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER GORDON BROWN TO RECOGNIZE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

On April 25 on the occasion of commemoration of 94th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide representatives of the Armenian Community of Great Britain continued protest actions against denying position of Turkey. Hundreds of participants of the protest actions in London chanting anti-Turkish slogans, holding the picture of the editor-in-chief of the Akos weekly of blessed memory Hrant Dink, moved to the government building. Participants of the rally called on the European Union to impose a precondition on Turkey in the EU accession talks the requirement to recognize the fact of the Armenian Genocide. By the end of rally demonstrators passed the letter to prime minister of the Great Britain Gordon Brown demanding to recognize the fact of the Armenian Genocide.

13. FRENCH ARMENIANS ORGANIZE RALLY IN FRONT OF THE GEORGIAN EMBASSY TO PROTECT VAHAGN CHAKHALIAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

Coordination Council of Armenian Organizations in France (CCAOF) will again organize a protest rally on April 28 in front of the Georgian Embassy in France in protest against doing violence to Vahagn Chakhalian in the Georgian prison.

CCAOF demands from the Georgian authorities "immediately release Vahagn Chakhalian, to respect his personal inviolability", and to respect the rights of the Armenian minority. In this connection CCAOF disseminated a statement, saying particularly, that Georgian authorities after sentencing to a 10-year imprisonment the leader of the "United Javakhk" democratic alliance on charges of the trumped-up case and forged documents, now intend to reply by physical violence to the wave raised against that unfair verdict.

«Such processes are unacceptable in any country declared supremacy of law, these developments are part of continuous victimization of Armenians of Javakhk and reflect a new display of a hostile attitude of Georgian central authorities towards the Armenian community of Georgia.

In Javakhk this is reflected in attempts of changing the demographic situation, in systematic falsifications of local elections outcomes, in neglecting democratic demands of the population and in applying oppression methods instead of dialog", says the statement of CCAOF.

This atrocious act committed on April 16 by servants of Tbilisi's prison number 8 against Chakhalian was also condemned by his attorneys who called upon relevant human rights international organizations to respond to this act of violence.

To remind, in protection of Vahagn Chakhalian a protest rally was organized in front of the Georgian Embassy in Paris on April 14.

14. RA MINISTER OF DIASPORA GIVES ARMENIAN LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS TO ARMENIAN PUPILS OF URUGUAY [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian received senior pupils of Nubarian-Manukian college of Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) of the city of Montevideo, Uruguay, school headmaster Alberto Durelian and English language teacher Christina Dakesian.

The Diasporan Armenian pupils told about their impressions from Armenia, said that they admired Sevan, Tsitsernakaberd, Sardarapat, Khor Virap and Garni-Geghard and will return to Armenia without fail.

H. Hakobian attached importance to knowledge of Armenian language for remaining an Armenian in the Diaspora. Speaking about her visit to Latin America, the Minister expressed concern with the danger of Armenian community's assimilation in that region and the condition of teaching Armenian language at Armenian schools. According to the Minister, the very circumstance was an occasion for elaborating educational-cultural programs for Latin American countries' Armenian communities, which has been already confirmed by the RA government. The Minister said that in spite of the economic crisis, the RA President contributed to the process of implementation of the educational program in Latin American countries.

According to the Press and Information Department of the RA Ministry of Diaspora, at the end of the meeting Hranush Hakobian gave Armenian language textbooks and subsidiary literature to the pupils of Nubarian-Manukian college.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Thursday, April 30, 2009

15. ARMENIAN ARTISTS' WORKS TO BE EXHIBITED IN FRANCE [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

49 artists coming from France, Europe and Armenia will exhibit their artworks at Palais de Bondy in Lyon, France. The 400 works show the variety of their cultures on a bottom of common origin. The event is organized by ADCARLY (Association for the Developpement of Armenian Culture in Lyon) and the CLFA (Lyon's Circle of Armenian Women).

16. EVENT DEDICATED TO MARK ARAX AND ARIS JANIGIAN TO BE HELD IN GLENDALE [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

An event dedicated to Mark Arax and Aris Janigian will be held at Glendale Public Library on June 1.

Almost a century ago, in the aftermath of the Armenian genocide, Yervant Janigian made his way from Turkey to the Great Central Valley, and soon convinced his nephew, Aram Arax, to join him. Together they began picking fruits and vegetables, and putting down roots. Today, two generations later, their grandsons Mark Arax and Aris Janigian offer probing reflections on the West.

Mark Arax is a contributing writer at Los Angeles magazine and a former senior writer at the Los Angeles Times. He teaches nonfiction writing at Claremont McKenna College.

Aris Janigian is a professor of humanities at the Southern California Institute of Architecture in Los Angeles. In 2007, he received Columbia University's Anahid Literary Award. His first novel Bloodvine was a finalist for the William Saroyan International Writing Prize. He is currently working on a third book.

17. EUROPEAN ARMENIAN FEDERATION FOR JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY DISAPPOINTED WITH OBAMA'S ADDRESS [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

The European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy expressed disappointment on behalf of itself and Armenians of Europe on the occasion of President Barack Obama's April 24 address, in which instead of the expression "Armenian Genocide" he used the words "Meds Yeghern." According to Hilda Tchoboian, the Chairperson of the European Armenian Federation, millions of Armenians, who believed the promise given by President Obama are disappointed today and all manipulations connected with improval of Armenian-Turkish relations don't affect the core issue: the Turkish State remains politically and criminally liable for the Genocide toward the Armenian People. The Federation stands by the opinion that any "road-map" that bypasses the core issue of the Right to Justice of the Armenian People "victims of the Genocide" will be condemned by the whole European Armenians.

18. SECOND ANNUAL ARMENIAN FILM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN BOSTON [NOYAN TAPAN, 04/29/09]

The Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance organizes the Second Annual Armenian Film Festival at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

The film *The Blue Hour* by filmmaker Eric Nazarian will be shown on May 1. The film *We Drank the Same Water* by Serge Avedikian will be shown on May 2. The film is about the 1988 destructive Spitak earthquake. The *Mermaid* by Ana Melikian will be also shown the same day. Filmmaker Hrach Titizian's film *Float* will be shown on May 3.

SOCIAL

19. A CONTEST OF CREATIVE COMPOSITIONS ON "HOW TO CREATE A BRIDGE OF GOOD WILL" HELD IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

The "Future is Yours" charity NGO organizes a contest of creative compositions on "How to establish a bridge of good will" theme. It is being conducted within the frameworks of "Tolerance through cultural and educational dialogue" program which is sponsored by the USA Embassy in Armenia.

Program coordinator Anna Avetisian told Armenpress that 18-22 year old young people can take part in the contest by presenting a composition on the mentioned theme of about one page in Armenian and English variants. According to her the composition must express the approaches and ideas of the youth on inter-cultural relations, democracy, human rights and tolerance putting a stress on the necessary processes of establishment of an atmosphere of tolerance and good will in Armenia and Turkey.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Thursday, April 30, 2009

A. Avetisian noted that it is desirable that the participants of the contest present their possible contribution to establishment of the bridge of good will. The young people who have presented the best compositions will be invited to the interview after which they will take part in the preparatory courses.

The Armenian youth team, which will be formed as a result of the contest, will pay a three-day visit to Turkey and take part in other program events. The deadline for presenting the compositions expires today, April 30.

20. WITH THE SUPPORT OF "EURASIA PARTNERSHIP" FOUNDATION RESOURCE-CENTERS ON MIGRATION ISSUES TO FUNCTION IN A NUMBER OF ARMENIAN PROVINCES [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

With the support of "Eurasia Partnership" foundation this year resource-centers on migration issues will also function in a number of Armenian provinces for providing services to the working migrants and those who return from abroad.

Foundation program coordinator Gayane Mkrtchian told Armenpress that each of the centers functioning in the Gegharkunik, Syunik, Tavush and Shirak provinces – "The Community Council of Women", "Sisian Community Council", "Support to Nayemberian", "Center of protection of human rights after Sakharov" NGOs will conduct a legal consultation and provide information on the working opportunities in Armenia.

The local labor market will be studied and meetings will be organized with the employers to find out professions which are vacant. Courses are intended to be conducted with migrants and those who return from abroad and present them how resume must be written for being employed, take part in the interviews, sign an agreement previously being aware of the personal rights.

The foundation also implemented such a program last year and resource-centers are already functioning in some rural communities of Lori, Armavir, Kotayk, Syunik, Tavush and Gegharkunik.

21. THE ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKES STEPS TO PREVENT THE PENETRATION OF THE SWINE FLU TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

During today's session of the Armenian government issues connected with the prevention of the penetration of the swine flu into the republic have been discussed. The Armenian Health Minister Harutyun Kushkian noted that in this respect there is no epidemic situation in the republic.

A consultation has been held in the republic on prevention of the disease. At present quarantine is announced in the "Zvartnots" and "Gyumri" airports, all those who arrive in Armenia are checked and everything is done to prevent the penetration of the disease. According to H. Kushkian the Armenian Health Ministry has all the necessary medicaments stored against the disease.

The Armenian Agriculture Minister Aramayis Grigorian noted that yet there is no attempt of prevention of the disease, but everything is done so that the announced quarantine in the bordering checking stations has a great efficiency: all the cargos imported to Armenia are disinfected.

According to the Minister from April 26 the import of pork into Armenia has been restricted especially from countries where cases of disease have already been registered. As from the swine meat the disease can also transfer to the bird meat therefore it is also suggested to restrict the import of bird meat.

The Armenian Emergency Situations Minister Mher Shahgeldian suggested conducting checking of disease in airplanes as well.

The Head of Government-affiliated State Revenue Committee Gagik Khachatryan noted that the Committee must regularly be informed from where and when it is necessary to suspend the import of meat so that the importers are on time informed about it and not conduct expenditures in vein.

According to Armenian Prime minister Tigran Sargsian if different states who have registered a disease have suspended the import of meat, Armenia must also conduct serious steps towards prevention of penetration of the disease to the republic.

22. 13 WOMAN CRIMINALS DISCOVERED IN THE REPUBLIC DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

During the first quarter of 2009, 13 woman criminals have been discovered in the republic, 190 – are wanted.

Head of the information department of the Armenian Police Armen Malkhasian told Armenpress that compared with 2006 and 2007 during 2008 the number of crimes in Armenia committed by women



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Thursday, April 30, 2009

increased by 56: 585 crimes have been registered. Cases of robbery and swindler overwhelm. During 2008, 53 cases of robbery and 42 cases of swindler committed by women have been discovered.

The number of murders conducted by women is small: in 2006 no murders have been registered, in 2007, 4 murders have been committed and in 2008 – 3. Most crimes have been conducted by 30-49 year-old women; in 2006, 315 crimes have been revealed, in 2007 – 282 and in 2008 – 312.

During the last three years the most crimes committed by women have been registered in the capital: in 2006 – 273, in 2007 – 237, and in 2008 – 254.

During 2006, 23 prostitutes have been arrested, in 2007-2008 – 14; in 2007, 5 women dealing with trafficking and in 2008 – 7.

23. YEREVAN MUNICIPALITY GETS NO APPLICATIONS ON INCREASE OF PRICES FOR THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

As of today the Yerevan municipality has not received applications on increase of prices from companies which serve the lines of public transport.

Head of the transport department of the municipality Henrik Navasardian told Armenpress that nevertheless there are complaints by the companies which serve the lines which are not connected only with the increase of gas prices.

On these days the corresponding commissions of Armenian Transport and Communication Ministry studies applications on increase of the prices for public transport got from 18 companies which conduct inter-republican passenger transportations.

The above mentioned companies which have applied to the Ministry suggest in the conditions of increase of gas prices to increase the prices of passenger transportation set according to the tender package.

24. 2 EARTHQUAKES OF THREE MAGNITUDE REGISTERED IN THE REPUBLIC APRIL 23-29 [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

From April 23-29 the earthquake-detection stations of the National Service of Seismic Defense (NSSD) have registered 2 earthquakes with three magnitude strength in Armenia. An official from the NSSD told Armenpress that three-magnitude seismic quakes have taken place on April 25 and 28; first one of them took place 7 km to the south-west of Ashotsk town, the second one – 15 km to north-east from the Gavar town.

2 earthquakes have been registered in the region. A 5 magnitude earthquake took place April 24 in Iranian territory – 23 km to south east from the Khol town. On April 26 an earthquake was recorded 28 km to the west of Turkish Bulanik town the force of which reached 4-5 magnitudes in the epicenter.

SPORTS

25. A SESSION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD BOXING YOUTH CUP TAKES PLACE IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 04/30/09]

A session of the organizational committee of the world boxing youth cup which will be held in Yerevan May 23-30 took place today, which was chaired by the head of the organizational committee, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian.

Public relations department of the Armenian Government told Armenpress that project of the events presented by the working group established for the preparation of the tournament has been discussed and approved.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian has stressed the importance of proper organization and conduction of the world boxing youth cup, which will be held in Armenia for the first time.

Armenian Sport and Youth Affairs Minister Armen Grigorian informed that Russia, USA, Australia, Germany, Cuba, Great Britain, China and more than four dozens of countries of the world have presented applications of participation in the world boxing youth cup. Nearly 300 young people are intended to compete for the world cup.

The organizational committee has also approved the samples of medal, cup, crystal glove-souvenir, world cup medal and badge, the logo of the world cup and other symbols.

It has been noted that in best licensed companies in Moscow two Olympic rings and professional boxing estate have been ordered and the advertising video of the tournament is also being prepared.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Certain tasks have been put to corresponding Ministries and departments for the implementation of preparatory and conduction events of the tournament.

Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

Please be advised that the AGBU Armenia News Bulletin is for general reference only and should not be reprinted in any form without the explicit written permission of AGBU. All rights reserved.

Established in 1906, AGBU (www.agbu.org) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.