



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 31, 2009

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### POLITICS

#### 1. U.S. SHOULD RECOGNIZE INDEPENDENCE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH, FRANK PALLONE THINKS [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/26/09]

"I think that U.S. should recognize the independence of Nagorno Karabakh." According to the PanArmenian website which cites Armenian Reporter, the Co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Frank Pallone reported this. According to him, however, it is very difficult to reach this as a lot of members of Congress are not familiar with the subject. Besides, the State Department will be against the recognition of the independence of Nagorno Karabakh. And I am not sure how much Armenia itself seeks it," Frank Pallone said.

"Though I myself support recognition of NKR, I do not know to what extent the Armenian community wants to show preference to that. The Armenians of America should give preference to the issues which are most likely to be successfully accomplished. And since the issue of Nagorno Karabakh is a very difficult issue I would not recommend to put it in the list of the most primary ones," the Congressman announced.

#### 2. NA SPEAKER MEETS WITH MEMBERS OF NA AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON EVENTS OCCURRED ON 1-2 MARCH [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/26/09]

The RA National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamian met with members of NA Ad-hoc Committee on Events Occurred on 2008 1-2 March and Their Reasons.

According to the RA National Assembly Public Relations Department, the NA Speaker said that the regular term given to the Committee by parliament's decision expires on September 15 and he knows that the Committee is ready to introduce a brief conclusion. H. Abrahamian said that Committee's work has always been in the center of his attention. In his affirmation, the parliamentary Committee's conclusion should be exhaustive and unbiased as far as possible, it should give answers to questions set before the Committee by National Assembly's decision. He also said that Committee's conclusion will be also important for PACE as its last Resolution N 1677 stipulated that the parliamentary Ad-hoc Committee's report will make it clear whether criteria of impartiality and trustworthiness are met, whether there is a need of additional examination. According to Hovik Abrahamian, Council of Europe's evaluation is important, but the parliament should be first of all accountable to our people and it is society, political forces that expect exhaustive and reliable answers from the National Assembly.

The NA Speaker in his speech said that he is also aware of the difficulties the Committee had during its activity, he is aware that not always state bodies, various officials in time and properly responded to Committee's applications and inquiries, they were not always ready to come to the Committee and to answer the questions. "I also understand that the answer of many of the questions set before you by the parliament also directly concerns the work done by the special investigation service as the parliamentary Committee is not an investigation body and even if it wishes it very much it cannot and has no right to surpass its powers." He also gave assurance that the whole information accumulated during committee's activity will be presented in the unbiased way in the final conclusion. The NA Speaker also expressed willingness to listen to Committee members' views over a number of issues, in particular, over legality of policemen's actions, use of special means, clarification of death circumstances of ten victims and over materials given by the fact-finding committee members.

NA Ad-hoc Committee Chairman, NA Vice-Speaker Samvel Nikoyan thanked the NA Speaker for assistance. Mentioning that thanks to NA Speaker's support Committee's work proceeded more quickly and efficiently, Mr. Nikoyan presented the work done assuring that the Committee will present unbiased and brief conclusion in the established term. The Committee Chairman and members presented their views over questions set by Hovik Abrahamian.

At the end of the meeting Hovik Abrahamian reiterated that confronting the facts and information accumulated during the work the Committee should give an unbiased conclusion that will be reliable for society and expressed his readiness for any kind of assistance and support.



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### 3. SERZH SARGSYAN: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IS ARMENIAN NATION'S DISPLAY OF RESOLUTION FOR BUILDING THEIR OWN COUNTRY ON THEIR OWN LAND [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/26/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan sent a congratulatory address on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the Declaration of Armenia's Independence. The address which was sent from the Press Office of RA President read:

"19 years ago this day, the Supreme Council of Armenia adopted the Declaration of Independence, which was a historic and guiding document for the future of our country. It was the will of the people who went through immeasurable sufferings, who paved its way in the history with the cross, writings and sweat, and when necessary also with the sword. It embodied the resolve of the people to build their own country on their own land.

The Declaration of Independence was received by the whole Armenian nation with great enthusiasm, as it was called upon to realize the centuries-old Armenian dream of restoring independent statehood.

With this document which told the world the news of the political freedom of the people of Armenia we declared our way of ascent in which our Republic and our nation have been pursuing during the last years being faithful to principles stipulated in the Declaration.

I cordially congratulate you on the occasion of the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and wish you prosperity."

### 4. NEWLY APPOINTED RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA HANDS OVER COPY OF HIS CREDENTIALS TO RA FOREIGN MINISTER [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/26/09]

RA Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian received Vyacheslav Kovalenko, the newly appointed Russian Ambassador to Armenia, on the occasion of handing the copies of the credentials on August 24.

Greeting the guest Minister Edward Nalbandian congratulated him on the occasion of being appointed the Russian Ambassador to Armenia and wished him success in implementing his diplomatic mission. Highly appreciating the Armenian-Russian relations, Edward Nalbandian said that the mutual understanding, trust and cooperation between Russia and Armenia create a good basis for strengthening allied relations and military cooperation for the general benefit of the two brotherly nations, and that the Ambassador Kovalenko will have an important contribution in the process of further deepening and expanding the cooperation.

According to the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press and Public Relations Department, in his turn, Ambassador Kovalenko appreciating the current state of Armenian-Russian relations noted that he will do his best for strengthening the present cooperation, and for the development of the bilateral relations in different spheres.

At the meeting Edward Nalbandian and Ambassador Kovalenko discussed a series of questions concerning the Armenian-Russian agenda, exchanged thoughts on the territorial and international issues. Vyacheslav Kovalenko was born in 1946. He graduated from the Institute of Oriental Languages under M. Lomonosov Moscow University. He has begun his diplomatic service since 1973. He took the position of Deputy Director of CIS Second Department of Russian Foreign Ministry in 2004-2006. He was appointed the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Georgia in 2006. He speaks Arabic, Belarusian and French. He is married and has three children.

### 5. KAREN BEKARIAN: IMPEDING PROCESS OF IMPROVEMENT OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS IS NOT IN TURKEY'S INTERESTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/26/09]

In the opinion of Karen Bekarian, the Chairman of the European Integration NGO, unless there are essential changes in the process of improvement of Armenian-Turkish relations, going to the return football game will be necessary.

"Leaving for Turkey on a return visit does not mean that Turkey has improved everything. In the future we will witness if not direct then indirect developments. October is not far away and some steps will be made clear in September," K. Bekarian said at an August 25 press conference.

In his words, Turkey by all possible means will try to lay upon Armenia the reason of impeding the process of improvement of Armenian-Turkish relations. He said that straight after Serzh Sargsyan's statement the opinion was spread in Turkey, according to which, Armenia puts forward preconditions.



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Meanwhile, according to K. Bekarian, impeding the process is not in Turkey's interests. In his words, if Turkey wants to play an active role in the region, it cannot have no relations at all with any of the regional countries.

K. Bekarian also mentioned that Turkey has always tried to link improvement of Armenian-Turkish relations with the Nagorno Karabakh settlement. In his words, for years Turkey has been declared a hostage to the "One nation, two states" policy.

## 6. OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF THE FACT FINDING GROUP TO PREPARE ANOTHER REPORT ON MARCH 1-2 EVENTS IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

The parliamentary ad hoc commission set up for the inquiry into March 1-2 2008 events in Yerevan must attach to its final conclusion all the materials provided by the experts of the fact finding group. Representative of the opposition in the fact finding group Andranik Kocharyan said today at a press conference that no fact must be left out, and they will do everything to clear out all the circumstances of the March 1-2 events and punish the guilty.

Referring to the statement of the chairman of the parliamentary ad hoc commission Samvel Nikoyan that the materials presented by the group will be attached to the final report with explanations of the Special Investigative Service, he noted that besides these explanations it is necessary to present opinions of the members of the commission.

"We are going to prepare another report on March 1 events which needs serious work. We think that there are many unrevealed circumstances and unexplained issues. Without them it is impossible to imagine the full picture of what happened," A. Kocharyan said.

The fact finding group did not finish its activity because of disputes among its members.

## 7. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT VISITS "MIASIN" YOUTH MOVEMENT'S ACTIVISTS [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/28/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan visited today the activists of "Miasin" ("Together") Youth Movement encamped on the shore of the Lake Sevan. The president walked in the territory of the camp and had a separate conversation with the leaders of the movement and their guests.

The leader of the movement Hakob Hakobyan said that this camp event is part of "Miasin-2009" educational gathering of activists of the movement, leaders of cooperating organizations. The main goal of the event is to unite the people who were not close before coming to the camp and did not know each other, and here they are becoming a core, a fist which will promote the solution of issues in the country, support to the reforms. "If we succeed in it we will be able to contribute to the development of our country," Hakobyan said.

About 500 young people in the 16 to 25 age range from Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhs encamped from August 24 till tomorrow. "Different classes have been organized for the participants, the established terms are quite strict and in case of violation of the rules twice they leave the camp," the leader of the movement was telling to the president presenting the life in the camp.

Member of State Duma, leader of the "Young Russia" movement Maxim Mishchenko, hosted by the Armenian activists, noted that they established cooperation with "Miasin" from 2008 and 25-member delegation of the Armenian youth movement participated in the "Seliger" All-Russian forum and since then close cooperation between the two movements continues.

Mishchenko is conducting workshops for the activists of the movement. "We are trying to convey our political experience, we tell what issues the youth in Russia faced during its consolidation," Mishchenko said, adding that the workshops refer to geopolitical situation, youth movements, mechanisms and systems of organization of united group. "Here I have seen such young people who wish to change something, to change the world around them. It is very great that the movement is backed by such career-oriented young people," he said.

## 8. NKR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY, "AZERBAIJANI PROPAGATING MACHINE IS ON THE EDGE OF A BREAKDOWN" [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Secretary for Azerbaijani Foreign Affairs Minister Elkhon Polukhov commenting on the interview given by RA Vice Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan to the "Echo Moskvi" radio station, has accused him of spreading information on UN Resolution on Karabakh conflict not corresponding to reality and made a strange conclusion, according to which "in the given case it is evident that S. Kocharyan has an absence of information on details of the negotiation process".



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The press service of NKR Foreign Affairs Ministry referring to the “comment” of E. Polukhov, noted that “over-informed” Polukhov has not brought a single argument in favor of the position he holds and has been limited by his naked accusation. “In all appearances, the Azerbaijani propagating machine, which faces more and more disorders recently, is on the edge of a breakdown. It was enough that Shavarsh Kocharyan slightly reminded of NKR refugees, that the moment of “neinim-neinim” came.

The Azerbaijani official had nothing to say. But the pause is necessary to complement as well, isn't it?”, press service of NKR Foreign Affairs Ministry said in regard to the comment of the Azerbaijani officer.

## 9. DELEGATION OF NA'S EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AFFAIRS COMMISSION VISITS KARABAKH NA [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Karabakh National Assembly Speaker Ashot Ghulyan received August 27 chairperson of the Armenian NA's European Integration Affairs permanent commission Naira Zohrabyan and member of the same commission Vachagan Khurshudyan.

Press service of the Karabakh NA told Armenpress that the speaker underscored the traditional partnership of the two Armenian parliaments. “During the recent years it has a tendency of activation, implemented on different levels and formats including the joint sessions of permanent commissions, individual meetings of members of parliament,” he said.

N. Zohrabyan noted that currently multi-sided contacts with international organizations are highlighted for integration of the region to these establishments. “In that respect our commission has much to do relating to Karabakh conflict as well,” she said, adding that with that aim they arrived in Artsakh to discuss on place the priorities of cooperation, ways and means.

Representatives of the Armenian parliament also met with the chairman of the NKR NA's foreign relations permanent commission Vahram Atanesyan.

During the conversation they discussed issues of cooperation between the two commissions connected with the necessity of presenting Karabakh issue in international organizations fully and clearly.

## 10. ARPI VARDANYAN SAYS THE REGULATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF OPENING THE BORDER, BUT OF THE BENEFIT OF THE ARMENIAN AND TURKISH NATIONS AS WELL [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

The regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations is not only a matter of opening the border, but of the benefit of the Armenian and Turkish nations as well, Director of the Armenian and NKR offices of the Armenian Assembly of America Arpi Vardanyan said at today's meeting with journalists noting that the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations is a long-lasting process. In her opinion, U.S. government may have its version of Armenian-Turkish relations regulation, as the closed border regards everybody. She said that Turkey must by distinct steps show its readiness toward the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations, which has not been made up today.

In that regard she attached importance that Armenia and NKR make the international society competent about that by all the possible efficient ways.

Referring to the recognition of the Armenian genocide A. Vardanyan did not exclude that U.S. President Barack Obama can use the word “genocide” any day of the year and it is not necessary to wait only for April 24. She said that the number of the senators, who are for the resolution on the recognition of the Armenian genocide, has not been changed up to now, it is 126, and added that the process will be activated in autumn.

“There have always been meetings and communication between the Armenian and Jewish lobbies in USA, but they have not always shared the same viewpoint particularly on the issue of the Armenian Genocide”, A. Vardanyan noted. She is sure that the Jews know Israel quite well, but many are not ready to admit that apparently and to help the Armenians. “The International Association of Scientists engaged in the genocide issues supports the Armenians, and Jewish scientists are involved in the association as well. The officials of Israel know, but the politics intervenes in the issue, and if it was not so, the truth would take a victory”, A. Vardanyan underscored.



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## 11. ANNUAL GATHERING OF HEADS OF ARMENIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS TO TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 1-3 [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

Annual gathering of the Central Apparatus of the Armenian Foreign Ministry and heads of Armenian diplomatic representations will take place September 1-3 in the ministry. The gathering will be opened by the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

Foreign Ministry's Media and Information Department told Armenpress that the participants of the gathering will also meet with the NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Secretary General of the National Security Council Arthur Baghdasaryan, Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan and Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan.

September 3 the heads of Armenian diplomatic representations will leave for Artsakh and meet with its leadership.

## 12. SERZH SARGSYAN: "OUR WISH REMAINS THE SAME – ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH TURKEY WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS" [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

BBC reporter Gabriel Gatehouse, visiting Yerevan, had an interview with the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, being particularly interested whether the President is going to visit Turkey to watch the response football match or not.

"Football Diplomacy" edge was put into circulation a year ago when Turkish President Abdullah Gul visited Armenia to watch Armenia-Turkey football game at the invitation of President Serzh Sargsyan.

"There are two answers to this question – first – it is not essential whether I will go or not, - the President said, - I want to say that we may not tie watching football with our relations with Turkey. Let's imagine, at least, two variants: supposing we freeze our relations with Turkey, and I am visiting Turkey to watch the football game and the second variant – we continue negotiations, but I do not visit Turkey. Which is the most important? I want to say that if you are giving the question in the pre-context of our relations with Turkey and whether we can achieve any result by October, this will be my answer."

Armenian president reminded that he has stated twice that he will visit Turkey to watch the game in case the border is open or being on its threshold. "That is to say, if Turks implement our arrangements it is one thing, if not it is another. We have arrangements and in my opinion the normal and right way is when the sides implement their arrangements. Unfortunately, by now I have not seen wish or strive of implementation of arrangements. Our wish remains the same – establish relations without preconditions," the President said.

In response to the question on readiness to go for concessions in the issue of what happened in 1915 and whether Turkey will define them as genocide, Serzh Sargsyan said, "Of course it is very important that historic justice be restored, it is important that our peoples be able to establish normal relations and finally it is important that it will not be repeated in future. Though, we do not view recognition of the genocide as precondition for establishing relations."

Thus, there may be a possibility of mutual concession in this issue, the reporter questioned. "No, it cannot be defined as mutual concession. It is not the case when it may be spoken about mutual concession. We say – yes there was genocide and independent of whether Turkey accepts it or not, there is fact recognized by all specialists of the world dealing with genocides issues, many countries of the world recognized it. But in current conditions we do not forward it as precondition for establishing relations with Turks," the President answered.

BBC reporter noted that nevertheless the issue impedes the relations. "Someone in Yerevan made such a comparison – when you are driving a car, you must oversee what goes on on the already passed way and from time to time you must look back but the most important is the road in front of you. How right does this reflect the situation?" the reporter asked. "I understand what that person wanted to say: he says that we must look to the future, but he also says that we do not have right to forget the past," S. Sargsyan said.

## 13. FOREIGN MINISTER OF GEORGIA TO ARRIVE IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

Foreign Minister of Georgia Grigol Vashadze will pay a two-day working visit Armenia September 4, press service of the Georgian Foreign Ministry reported.

"The visit will take place in the format of political dialogue between Armenia and Georgia," deputy foreign minister of Georgia David Jalagania said.

During the visit the Georgian foreign minister will meet with his Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandyan, representatives of the country's legislative and executive bodies. "During the meetings in



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Yerevan issues on bilateral relations between the two countries and issues of regional importance will be discussed," David Jalagania said.

## 14. ARMENIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA ENDS HIS TENURE [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

Armenian ambassador to India Ashot Kocharyan, who is ending his mission in India, had a farewell meetings with the high-ranked officials of the country.

Foreign Ministry Media and Information Department told Armenpress that the Armenian ambassador said that he returns to Armenia with warm feelings and Armenia highly underscores India as a state having great potential.

The ambassador noted that during the recent years a number of programs have been carried out in agricultural, high technology, educational, chemical industry and other spheres, a number of mutual visits of high-ranked officials have taken place, the volume of trade turnover essentially increased.

As a result of close and friendly relations weeks of Armenian art have been conducted in Delhi, Armenian-Indian inter-governmental session, Armenian-Indian business forum took place. He expressed hope that in future as well the dynamic and successful cooperation in different spheres will continue.

Underscoring the role of the Armenian community of India in consolidation of bilateral relations, Ashot Kocharyan highly assessed the attention and care of Indian authorities toward Armenian community.

Chairman of Indian parliament Meyra Kumar pointed out the ancient-long Armenian-Indian friendship and noted that Armenia is a country with rich culture and underscored the necessity of cultural and educational exchanges. Kumar highly underscored the high level of higher education in Armenia pointing out the studying of Indian students in Yerevan State Medical University.

During the meetings the Indian side noted that Ashot Kocharyan during his tenure contributed to the development of Armenian-Indian relations.

At the reception in the residence of the President of India Pratibha Patili the ambassador had a short conversation with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singhi.

## 15. HEAD OF UAE NATIONAL COUNCIL INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/29/09]

Abd al-Aziz Abdallah al-Ghureyr, the Chairman of the UAE Federal National Council (parliament), received Vahagn Melikian, the Ambassador of Armenia to the United Arab Emirates.

As Noyan Tapan was informed by the RA Foreign Ministry, at the meeting Ambassador Melikian conveyed RA NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamian's address-invitation to al-Ghureyr.

The prospects of cooperation between the two countries' parliaments, creation of interparliamentary deputy friendship groups, as well as prospects of development of the bilateral relations were discussed during the conversation.

At al-Ghureyr's request Ambassador Melikian presented the main directions of Armenia's foreign policy and the regional policy.

The head of the UAE National Council mentioned that he is interested in development of close relations with Armenia, and active steps should be taken in this direction.

## 16. IN OPINION OF 61.30% SURVEY PARTICIPANTS, MADRID PRINCIPLES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR ARMENIA AND NKR [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/29/09]

An online survey on the subject "Are Madrid Principles acceptable for Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh?" was held between July 20 to August 20 by the Research Center for Political Developments. 61.30% or 1239 answered "no" to the question. 24.34% or 492 answered "yes" and 14.25% or 288 "I don't know."

As Center Chairman Vahan Dilanian reported at an August 26 press conference, 18-40-year-old Internet users of Armenia and Diaspora participated in the survey. In his words, the survey was held within the framework of two separate groups - 18-30-year-old young people distinguished by public activity and representatives of the 25-40-year-old expert-scientific-pedagogical community. The survey was sent to 3651 people, 2021 of which answered the question, including 121 from the first group and 1900 from the second group. According to the observation of the center chairman, the results show that the first group, young people take much less interest in the Nagorno Karabakh settlement.

In V. Dilanian's opinion, the revised Madrid Principles to be presented by October will not differ much from the current principles. Thus, according to him, the current public opinion will remain the same.



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Therefore, in his words, the Armenian authorities being considered a negotiations party should take into consideration this public opinion and undertake proper steps to overcome the created atmosphere.

V. Dilanian also said that societies of both Armenia and Azerbaijan are not ready yet for accepting any compromise variant. According to him, the status quo kept so far was beneficial for both sides.

## 17. NAIRA ZOHRABYAN DISCUSSES DEEPENING OF ARMENIA-EU COOPERATION WITH RAUL DE LUZENBERGER [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

Chairperson of the NA's European Integration Affairs Commission Naira Zohrabyan met in the parliament with the head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Armenia Raul de Luzenberger.

NA public relations department told Armenpress that during the meeting the parties referred to the issues on boosting and consolidating EU-Armenia cooperation. N. Zohrabyan particularly referred to the importance of activating contacts with the commission, saying that parliamentary diplomacy with its flexibility may promote solution of many issues. N. Zohrabyan underscored the role of EU in ensuring stability and security in the region.

Speaking about the further work of the commission, head of the commission underscored the continuation of the process of making the Armenian legislature in accordance with European standards, noting that for doing it the commission needs additional expertise assistance. For filling the gap the commission expects EU's support. During the conversation they made arrangement on programs on exchange of experience and conduction of classes.

Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Armenia Raul de Luzenberger said that EU is interested not only in implementation of joint programs with executive power but also having close relations with parliament and in general with different clusters of society. He expressed readiness to support the works of the commission, noting that it has great role in spreading European values.

## **BUSINESS**

## 18. GOVERNMENT EXPANDS CIRCLES OF STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGARAK COPPER-MOLYBDENUM FACTORY [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Armenian government approved today at its session the 14 million USD state support program to the Agarak copper-molybdenum factory with new content. Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtyan said that provision of state support to the factory is one of the packages of anti-crisis programs of the government with which it intends to support mine-industrial organizations.

With the new draft decision the government expands the circles of assistance and gives an opportunity to pay back 14 million USD loan in four years with LIBOR +8 interest rate starting from December 15 of the running year. As a result of it, Tigran Davtyan said, the Agarak copper-molybdenum factory will be able to implement the intended investment programs, import machine-devices, ensure jobs, and fully re-operate the factory.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Armen Movisisyan said that all the agreements of the government with a number of enterprises of mine-industrial sphere are being implemented in a proper way.

## 19. GOVERNMENT APPROVES "PROGRAM OF EVENTS DIRECTED TOWARD IMPROVEMENT OF FINANCIAL SYSTEM OF HEALTH CARE" [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

The Armenian government approved today at its session the "Program of Events Directed toward Improvement of Financial System of Health Care in RA".

Health Minister Harutyun Kushkyan noted today at the session that the necessity of approval of the program is agreed with the importance of solution of the issues existing in state guaranteed free medical assistance and service sectors. The minister expressed hope that in case the program is brought to life the efficiency and addressability of spending of state budget means will essentially increase, volumes of not registered turnover in health care sphere will reduce, trust toward state-funded medical services will increase.

The program is aimed at improvement of the quality of services provided by the medical establishments, increase of the level of state oversight in medical assistance sphere.



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Kushkyan said that the target goals of the events included in the program are clarification of circles of state-funded services, rules of state financing in the health care sphere, etc.

## 20. FINANCE MINISTER SAYS 2010 STATE BUDGET WILL BE REALISTIC AND QUITE MODEST, BUT THE DYNAMICS OF SOCIAL EXPENSES GROWTH WILL BE MAINTAINED [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/28/09]

Currently Armenian Finance Ministry works intensively on drafting the 2010 state budget. It is going to be realistic and quite modest, Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtyan said today at the press conference noting that the implementation of the budget of the running year is quite efficient, all the intended current and capital expenses are being implemented, and all the payments intended by the state budget are made in time without any delay.

“The crisis has not influenced on the current implementation of the state budget. Some expenses are being implemented even more than in previous years, for example, the social expenses have grown by about 18 percent. The dynamics of their growth will be maintained, as the budget has quite large resources for it. At present there is 170 billion AMD on our cash account, consequently there is no risk in not implementing the necessary expenses. Nevertheless, we will work by economical regime, as we do now; we won't implement expenses, which will not have an essential significance for the development of economy”, he said.

According to the Minister, this year 905-910 billion expenses will be implemented as of 945 billion AMD intended for this year. It means that the savings will be less than the intended 10 percent expense reductions. Expenses of about 93 billion AMD have been removed to the 4-th quarter from the first 3 quarters of the running year. In all cases T. Davtyan does not share the opinions on sequester – on the necessity of reducing the expenses considering it purposeless. Moreover, the government, according to him, not only does not reduce the expenses, but carries out an extensive policy as well. The implementation of sequester would mean one more hit to economy and GDP. We are categorically against the reduction of expenses and do not have such an intention”, he said.

## 21. ARMENIA'S STATE DEBT IS MANAGEABLE AND WITHIN PERMISSIBLE LIMITS [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Armenian state debt is manageable and is within permissible limits, Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtyan said today at a press conference, referring to the concerns that Armenia may have problems in returning the credit means.

Davtyan said that the involvement of means is regulated by law on “State Debt” which does not allow involving means more than 60% of GDP. In case of reaching the 50% limitations are being established for involvement of loans. “We have not reached that threshold and have no intention to. There is no need for concerns. Ensuring the macroeconomic stability of Armenia is the most important thing for us. Paying back the loans we have involved is clearly calculated for 2025. The situation is under monitoring both by local and international organizations,” the minister said.

## 22. ARMENIAN FINANCE MINISTER SAYS STABILIZATION TENDENCIES REGISTERED IN ARMENIA'S ECONOMY [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtyan said today at a press conference that the events directed towards smoothing the impact of the crisis on Armenia's economy continue and the anti-crisis steps will be implemented until the economy of the country goes out of the situation. T. Davtyan said the results will be seen and they will become obvious in the fourth quarter of the year. The stabilization tendencies in the Armenian Economy are already notable and it is necessary to consolidate them.

The minister considers forecasting ungrateful work, especially in conditions of crisis when normal processes divert, nevertheless he thinks that at the end of the year the economy indexes will be better than now. T. Davtyan said he is optimistic in connection with economic development, expressing hope that in 2010 it will be succeeded to register 1-1.5% economic growth.

Referring to the observation that Armenia suffered from the crisis more than any other CIS country, Davtyan said that if Armenia is being compared with such countries as Russia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, they had great stores of assembled mining program before the crisis and in this respect Armenia cannot be compared with them and was more vulnerable.



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## 23. WB APPROVES ADDITIONAL \$36.6 MLN FINANCING TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a credit of US \$36.6 million equivalent Additional financing for the Lifeline Road Improvement Project (LRIP-AF) for Armenia. This project will assist the Government of Armenia in its on-going efforts to drastically improve accessibility of the country's main road network for the rural population and to create mid-term employment. It will also help Armenia mitigate the impacts of global economic crisis on the country's economy and well-being of its population.

Head of the WB Armenian Office Aristomene Varudakis said today that the construction works of the additional funds will kick off in late September. By the time the project is completed, rural communities would benefit from travel time reductions on the newly rehabilitated roads and increased local employment opportunities. The LRIP-AF has two main components. It would support rehabilitation of approximately 140 km of the lifeline roads, located in seven regions. The technical assistance component will enhance the capacity development in alternative pavement designs, a road safety audit manual, as well as "safe village" pilot for further scaling up safety standards in other areas.

Varudakis said the rehabilitation of roads will create about 800 temporary jobs in rural areas.

This project is part of the overall World Bank Group Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for 2009-2012 which was approved in early June. The IBRD Flexible Loan has 25 years of maturity with 10 years grace period. Since joining the World Bank in 1992 and IDA in 1993, commitments to Armenia total approximately US\$1, 313, 6 million.

## DIASPORA

## 24. ARMENIAN-AMERICAN LAWYERS AND LEADERS SHOULD COUNTER RULING OF APPEALS COURT [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/26/09] By Harut Sassounian, Publisher, The California Courier

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued an outrageous judicial opinion last week, ruling that the California law that extended the deadline for Armenian-Americans to sue life insurance companies for unpaid claims from the Genocide-era was unconstitutional.

Furthermore, in a split decision, the Court made a sweeping pronouncement claiming that the State of California had infringed on the foreign affairs power reserved by the Constitution exclusively to the federal government, just because the law in question included a reference to the Armenian Genocide. Two of the three federal judges asserted that Section 354.4 of the California Code of Civil Procedure, adopted by the California Legislature in 2000, contravened the federal government's policy of not acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

By adopting this law, the State of California intended to provide its residents and others the opportunity to protect their legal rights by allowing them until December 31, 2010 to file lawsuits against foreign and domestic life insurance companies which had not paid claims dating back to the Genocide era.

On the basis of this law, a class action lawsuit was filed against New York Life Insurance Company which was settled in 2005 for \$20 million dollars. A second class action lawsuit was filed against Axa, a French life insurance company. It was settled for \$17.5 million.

A third class action lawsuit was filed against Victoria Verisherung AG and two affiliated German insurance companies in 2003. Father Vazken Movsesian, Pastor of St. Peter Armenian Church in Glendale, was the lead plaintiff.

The attorneys for the German companies contested the lawsuit and filed a motion to dismiss. Federal Judge Christina Snyder rejected the defendants' contention by ruling that Section 354.4 did not infringe on the federal government's foreign affairs powers. The defendants then filed an appeal claiming that the California Law "conflicts with the Executive Branch's policy prohibiting legislative recognition" of the Armenian Genocide. They pointed out that the Administrations of Presidents Bush and Clinton had opposed all three Armenian Genocide resolutions submitted to the House of Representatives in 2000, 2003 and 2007.

Last week, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals over-ruled Judge Snyder, asserting that the California Law in question "impermissibly infringes" on the jurisdiction of the U.S. government. Two of the three judges of the Appeals Court, David R. Thompson and Dorothy W. Nelson, sided with the German insurance companies. The third judge, Harry Pregerson, sided with the Armenian plaintiffs, contending that the State of California has the right to ensure that its residents are fairly treated by insurance companies. He also asserted that he could not find "any evidence of an express federal policy" forbidding states from using the term "Armenian Genocide."



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This Appeals Court ruling has very serious consequences for the Armenian Cause, far beyond the issue of mere life insurance claims.

It was highly unusual that Judge Dorothy Nelson was absent from the bench when attorneys from both sides were presenting their oral arguments to the Court of Appeal. Given her apparent lack of interest in this case, one wonders if she delegated viewing the videotape of the hearing to her law clerks. Armenian-Americans should call for the impeachment of Judges Thomson and Nelson for legislating from the bench, falsely claiming that Congress and individual states are "prohibited" from adopting resolutions on the Armenian Genocide, and injecting political views into their judicial opinion. It is incredible that judges who live in Southern California -- in the midst of the largest Armenian community in the world -- are so ignorant about the most basic facts of the Armenian Genocide.

There are also serious errors in the opinion issued by the two judges on August 20, 2009. For example, on page 11434, they claim that "there is no citation or evidence in the record of these other thirty-nine state statutes which purportedly reference the "Armenian Genocide."" This statement is patently false. On page 19 of the "Answering Brief" filed on April 30, 2008, the plaintiffs' attorneys provide the following citation: "To date, thirty-nine states have formally recognized the Armenian Genocide by legislation or proclamation. See, Armenian National Committee of America, "Genocide Recognition by U.S. States' Online at "[http://www.anca.org/genocide\\_resource/states\\_map.php](http://www.anca.org/genocide_resource/states_map.php)."

Judges Thompson and Nelson, in their eagerness to prove that California contradicted the Executive Branch's policy on the Armenian Genocide, selectively refer only to the resolutions that had failed to come to a full House vote. The judges do not mention the material fact that in line with California's statute 354.4, the U.S. House of Representatives twice adopted resolutions on the Armenian Genocide in 1975 and 1984, and Pres. Reagan issued a Presidential Proclamation in 1981, acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

These judges are also plainly wrong in claiming that the U.S. Congress and individual States had interfered in the formulation of U.S. foreign policy on the Armenian Genocide. The resolutions adopted by 41 U.S. States and hundreds of proclamations issued by governors, mayors, and county supervisors throughout America are commemorative in nature, simply reaffirming the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide and urging the President of the United States to do likewise. Furthermore, the U.S. government does NOT have a policy of denying the Armenian Genocide.

Interestingly, the Appeals Court judges disclosed that Turkish officials had made a sinister attempt to interfere in their ruling. They stated that Nabi Sensoy, the Turkish Ambassador to the United States, sent them a letter expressing his country's strong opposition to California statute 354.4, and asking the Court to overturn it. The Turkish Ambassador had sent a similar letter earlier to another Federal Judge, trying to interfere in a lawsuit by Armenian plaintiffs against German banks. Although Judges Thomson and Nelson assert that they ignored the Turkish Ambassador's angry letter, it must have surely reinforced their own view that California was intruding into Washington's conduct of foreign policy. It is simply appalling that the Turkish government would try to stick its nose in a lawsuit between Armenian-Americans and German insurance companies even though the plaintiffs in this case neither accuse Turkish officials of any wrongdoing nor make any demands from them. Similarly, the attorneys for the German insurance companies have no business objecting to whether California was infringing upon U.S.-Turkish relations.

The Law offices of Geragos & Geragos; Kabatek, Brown, Kellner LLP; and Yeghiayan Law Firm -- the attorneys for the plaintiffs -- must have realized by now that this is no longer simply a life insurance issue dealing with the unpaid claims of their clients. This lawsuit has now mushroomed into a case that calls into question the authority of California and 40 other States to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. Furthermore, it is highly puzzling why the plaintiffs' attorneys had not invited California's Attorney General to file a friend of the court brief to defend his State from accusations that it had adopted a statute that ostensibly violated the U.S. Constitution. Hopefully, this serious oversight would be remedied by requesting that the State Attorney General file such a brief when the plaintiffs' attorneys seek a rehearing of the case "en banc" by a larger panel of the Court of Appeals. Should all appeals fail, however, Armenians could lobby for the adoption of a new California statute that would allow the filing of lawsuits against foreign insurance companies, without the problematic language.

For several years, this writer has been urging the Armenian American community and its political leadership to stop pursuing the adoption of additional congressional resolutions that simply repeat what was already accomplished in 1975 and 1984, and to re-channel their efforts to more productive legal demands from the government of Turkey through U.S. and European courts. It is now clear that the repeated and failed Armenian attempts to pass previously adopted resolutions may not only be wasting valuable time and resources, but could also be detrimental to the pursuit of Armenian legal claims.



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Finally, Pres. Obama and several previous Presidents must bear their share of responsibility for this unwelcome judicial development, given the fact that they pledged to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide as candidates and reneged on their promises, once in office. Pres. Obama should be made aware of the serious legal consequences of his breach of trust and asked to make good on his campaign promise.

Armenians and all those who believe in justice should urge the establishment of a U.S. commission -- similar to the one for Holocaust victims -- to settle all claims of properties and possessions arising from the Armenian Genocide. Even though this would not be an easy task, it would at least be the start of a tangible and meaningful process!

## 25. CHARLES PUCHIKIAN APPOINTED JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEAL IN CALIFORNIA'S FIFTH REGION [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/26/09]

According to the August 20 report of Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger's office, the Governor appointed Charles Puchikian the judge of Court of Appeal in California's fifth region.

60 years old Puchikian has been a member of California Senate (1998-2006), as well as a member of state parliament (1994-1998), he has served in the governments of California's Governors George Dokmejian and Pete Wilson (1981-1990).

Thus, Republican party member Puchikian will replace judge Thomas Harris who has died lately.

## 26. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUBJECT OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE TO BE HELD IN LEBANON [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/26/09]

An international academic conference on the subject The Armenian Genocide and the International Law will be held between September 3 to 4 at Haykazian University on the initiative of the University and the Middle East Hay Dat Office. According to the joint report of the Haykazian University and the Middle East Hay Dat Office, issues of denial and recognition of the Armenian Genocide will be discussed from scientific point of view, problems of liquidation of consequences of the Genocide and Armenian people's rights will be considered within the law, and assistance will be provided to Genocide's passing to a new stage at the conference.

Historians, genocide scholars and specialists of international law from Egypt, Switzerland, Turkey, Ireland, Lebanon, Armenia, England, United States of America, and Canada will take part in the two-day conference. The materials of the conference will be published by an individual book, which will include such studies as The Problem of Minorities and Majorities: Ottoman Empire's Future, The Armenian Genocide According to Arab Sources, International Diary of the 60-Year-Old Genocide: Problems, Prospects, Professional Morality and Denial of Armenian Genocide.

## 27. TWENTY U.S. PUPILS TO ARRIVE IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Twenty U.S. pupils will arrive in Armenia in March 2010 for ten-day exchange program in the sidelines of Dotcom's "Development of Online Tools for the Sake of Civil Involvement and Mobilization" program. They will meet and work with their partners, will together visit different media organizations. Armenia, USA and Azerbaijan are participating in the program.

Astghik Zakaryan, head of the "Dotcom" program of the "PH International" company, told Armenpress that the program promotes face-to-face contacts of Armenian, Azerbaijani and US pupils and exchange of experience.

In the three participant-countries public programs with the participation of young people and community groups are being carried out giving opportunity to the pupils to do their civic duty and serve to their community using their online tools and media established by citizens.

Zakaryan said the web bloggers established by participants and online communities will ensure open exchange of positive news and pictures which will promote dialogue and exchange among the participants and the improvement of inter-cultural mutual understanding.

Ten pupils from Armenia and ten from Azerbaijan were in USA in July. In 2010 within the framework of the program mutual visits of Armenian and Azerbaijani pupils are expected but taking into consideration the disputes between the two countries it is expedient to organize the meeting in neutral country – in this case in Georgia.

"Dotcom" program is funded by U.S. State Department's Education and Culture Affairs Office.



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28. BY THE END OF THE YEAR ARMENIAN EDUCATION AND SCIENCE MINISTRY TO ALLOCATE 51,000 UNITS OF EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE AND ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO THE ARMENIAN EDUCATIONAL CENTERS OF DIASPORA [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

By the end of the year the Armenia Education and Science Ministry will allocate 51 000 units of educational literature and additional materials to the Armenian educational centers in Diaspora.

Chief specialist for the links with Diaspora of the Ministry Tamara Zalinian told Armenpress that text books, encyclopedias, DVD discs, copy books and other resources will be rendered.

According to her there are materials which are provided to the Diaspora for the first time – the wanders of Armenia and traditions in one DVD, CDs teaching the national dances, children’s fiction as well as posters about capitals of Armenia. There are templates intended for the teachers of Diaspora as well.

The educational literature is intended for the children who attend the Armenian educational centers in Europe, USA and CIS states who do not know Armenian or know it badly. Volumes of literature provided to the educational centers in Diaspora is dependent upon the applications presented by them as well as the surveys conducted by the Ministry; number of pupils and the level of necessity of the educational materials are taken into consideration.

T. Zalinian noted that already 28 000 units of educational literature and additional materials have been provided to the Diaspora.

Usually more educational literature is ordered than it has been intended as during the year there are newly opened Armenian educational centers in different states of the world which have a need for educational templates and literature.

There are nearly 350 everyday Armenian schools functioning in the Diaspora and the number of Sunday schools is not clarified yet as very often new schools are opened and the existing ones are closed.

## ARTS

29. THE FIRST ROUND OF THE “CULTURAL ADAPTATION BY MEANS OF EDUCATION” PROGRAM WILL BE SUMMED UP [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

The first round of the “Cultural adaptation by means of education” program will be summed up August 28 in the business center of the American University of Armenia.

The program has been implemented by “Save the Children” and “Mission Armenia” agencies funded by the Department of Population, Refugees and Migration of the U.S. State Department.

The Armenian office of the agency “Save the Children” told Armenpress that the objective of the program is to contribute to the education of Iraqi-Armenian emigrant children, their parents having found a shelter in Armenia, as well as to cultural adaptation and improvement of their living conditions. Taking into consideration the exclusive success of the program, U.S. government has made a new grant, by means of which the second round of the program will be implemented.

High ranking officials from the Ministries of Armenian Territorial Administration and Education and Science, U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, UNHCR representative Bushra Halepota and others will be present at the meeting.

30. THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE “MUSEUM” MAGAZINE PRESENTED TODAY IN “EREBUNI” HISTORICAL-ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM-RESERVE [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

The first issue of the “Museum” magazine dedicated to theoretical issues of museum studies, as well as to methodological and practical issues was presented today in Historical-Archeological Museum-Reserve “Erebuni”.

Armenian Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan, museum directors and representatives were present at the event. According to H. Poghosyan, a magazine, in which the experience of top museums of Armenia and abroad is presented and professional theoretical and practical issues are raised has been published in Armenia for the first time.

Both Armenian and foreign authoritative cultural, art figures and museum specialists are presented in the magazine. It reflects the every day life of museums, has a separate chapter on “Our deserved specialists” devoted to museum figures. The magazine has been published on the initiative of the “Association of employees and relatives of museums” founded in 2003. The Minister said that having



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an inclination of museum studies, the public available publications are aimed at involving wide circles of society in cultural evaluation issues and in development process as well.

Today in "Erebuni" museum certificates were given to the participants of the classes entitled "Museum management" conducted in 4 museums of Yerevan in June 11-14 of the running year. They represented 25 Yerevan and 2 Artsakh museums. The classes have been conducted with the support of the Education Ministry and Moscow office of UNESCO. As a result of the classes the participants have acquired new skills of museum management.

H. Poghosyan, highly assessing such classes, noted that the issue on museum management is of primary significance, for the solution of which there are still works to be carried out.

Director of Erebuni Museum Ashot Piliposyan noted that the people having participated in the classes can conduct similar classes in their museums hereafter.

## 31. YEREVAN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL TO KICK OFF SEPTEMBER 11 [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

Yerevan International Music Festival this year will kick off September 11 and will last until October 23.

Director of Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra Ruzanne Sirunyan told Armenpress that the guests of the festival are Kim Kashkashyan (alt) from USA, Anahit Chaushyan (piano) from Great Britain, Ilya Gringolts (violin) from Russia, Juzzeppe Jakomini (tenor) from Italy, Dayshin Kashimoto (violin) from Japan and others. All the concerts will take place in Al. Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet Academic Theatre.

The art directors of the festival are the art director of the Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra Eduard Topchyan and violoncellist Alexander Chaushyan. The festival is being conducted for the third time.

## 32. EXHIBITION OF HARRY KUNDAKCHIAN'S PHOTOS TO TAKE PLACE IN GLENDALE [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/29/09]

An exhibition of internationally-known photo correspondent Harry Kundakchian will take place between September 11 to 13 at AGBU Pasadena (Glendale) branch Alex Manoogian center with author's participation.

The Azg daily reporting this reminds that Kundakchian was a correspondent to the most famous and authoritative American newspapers, took photos of events in the hottest points of the world and received many prizes.

## 33. MARZPET MARKOSIAN'S "MAGIC OF CITIES" BOOK TO BE PRESENTED IN GLENDALE [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/29/09]

On the initiative of the Armenian National Educational and Cultural Association and the Los Angeles branch of the Tekeyan Cultural Association the launching of Marzpet Markosian's "Magic of Cities" book will take place on August 30.

According to the Asbarez daily, Yervand Gochunian will speak at the event. Karo Petrosian, Vache Semerchian and Mher Papian will also make a speech and Barsegh Gartalian will be the compere. The launching will take place at the Public Library of Glendale.

## 34. REGULAR MEETING OF ARMENIAN WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 2 [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/29/09]

The forthcoming literary meeting of the Armenian Writers Association of California (AWAC) will take place on September 2 at Glendale Public Library.

Writer Fira Zela Akian will read her works. Poetess Ofelia Hovian will present a literary report. Author's handmade works, a video material will be presented. An exchange of opinions will take place. The AWAC report mentioned this.



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## RELIGION

35. CATHOLICOS OF ALL-ARMENIANS RECEIVES THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/28/09]

In the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin Catholicos of all Armenians Karekin II received today Italian Ambassador to Armenia Bruno Skapini on the occasion of starting his diplomatic mission in our country.

The press service of Mother See told Armenpress that His Holiness welcoming the newly appointed ambassador referred with gratification to Armenian-Italian ties of many centuries, as well as to warm relations established between the Armenian Apostolic and the Roman Catholic Churches. On behalf of the ambassador the Catholicos expressed his gratitude to Italian authorities for the support and assistance displayed toward Armenia and Armenian nation after the earthquake and independence.

Italian Ambassador to Armenia Bruno Skapini expressed gratitude to the Armenian Catholicos for warm reception and underscored that it is a great honor for him to be in the center of Armenian belief and serve for a country with ancient civilization and rich culture like Armenia. The ambassador informed the Armenian Catholicos about his upcoming plans as well.

At the end of the meeting His Holiness wished successes to the newly appointed ambassador in the implementation of his mission.

At the meeting the Armenian Catholicos and the ambassador exchanged ideas on regional issues, Christian merit system and current challenges.

## SOCIAL

36. "SUPERJET-100" TO BE BROUGHT TO ARMENIA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

First "Superjet-100" will be brought to Armenia in early September, press officer of the "Armavia" airlines Nana Avetisova told Armenpress, adding that everything goes according to the schedule and by the end of the year Armenian national carrier "Armavia" will have two "Superjet-100" airplanes. This new passenger transporting jets are created for overcoming high mountainous and bad weather conditions.

Armenian "Armavia" is one of the first which will put into operation Superjet produced by "Sukhoi" holding in collaboration with "Boeing". National carrier is planning by the end of the year acquire other passenger transporting jets.

"Armavia" airlines' air-park consists of three "Airbus A-319", two "A-320", one "Boeing 737-300", one "Tu-134" and "Il-86" jets.

37. ARMENIA TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION IN KOLN [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Armenia is going to participate in international agricultural exhibition in the German town of Koln October 10-14 together with about 100 states.

Head of the Agriculture Ministry's Foreign Relations and Marketing Department Seyran Iritsyan told Armenpress that Armenia will present alcoholic drinks, juices as well as chocolate covered dried fruits. In the sidelines of the event "Ecoglobe" company will present in the Armenian pavilion ecologically clean Armenian products – mainly dairy foods.

Iritsyan said that German Technical Support organization covered all the expenditures of the Armenian pavilion, renting 100 sq. m. territory.

Together with agricultural products, achievements in industrial, tourism and other spheres will be presented. The event has been planned not only for finding new markets but for the meeting of political figures as well.

38. 148 SCHOOLS OF PROVINCES TO GET FREE COMPUTERS [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

About 148 schools of the Armenian provinces will get free computers from September of the running year. Head of the applying information communication technology in secondary education system sector of the "Educational Program Center" affiliated to the Armenian Ministry of Education and Science Nune Voskanyan told Armenpress that it is expected to support mainly insecure schools of the Armenian provinces as Yerevan schools find other means for acquiring computers.



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While selecting schools not only their social condition was taken into consideration but also the number of pupils and the technical equipment. Each school will receive in average 3-4 computers. More computers will be provided to schools of Lori, Tavush, Armavir.

In the sidelines of the center's "Education Quality and Relevance" credit program computers have been provided to schools of the republic with available prices. About 80 schools have been included in the program within the frameworks of which 6000 computers have been provided.

## 39. NUMBER OF JOB SEEKERS IN SHIRAK INCREASES [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

The number of job seekers in the Armenian province of Shirak in the first half of the year has increased by 1413 compared with the same span of 2008.

Director of the Territorial Employment Center Amalya Adamyan told Armenpress that currently 12,060 job seekers are registered in the center against 11,000 of the past year. Adamyan said that the increase of the number of unemployed in the province is connected with the economic crisis and decrease of the number of people leaving for abroad to work.

This year the number of young people searching for jobs in the province also increased. In spite of the increase of the number of job seekers and unemployed there are vacancies in the province – mainly for doctors and advertisement agents.

## 40. EXHIBITION OF SYRIAN PRODUCTS TO BE CONDUCTED IN YEREVAN OCTOBER 1-4 [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Exhibition of Syrian products will be conducted in Yerevan October 1-4. Head of the International Cooperation Department of the Armenian Trade-Industrial Chamber Vladimir Amiryanyan told Armenpress that industrial, textile products, foods, clothes will be presented. Amiryanyan said that currently the list of participants is being clarified.

The Chamber organizes such big exhibition of Syrian products in Yerevan for the first time. Amiryanyan noted that such exhibitions promote the consolidation of trade ties between the two countries. An agreement has already been reached with Aleppo Trade Industrial Chamber on organization of exhibition of Armenian products in Aleppo in November or December.

After the exhibition of Syrian products, the Chamber is planning to organize exhibition of Indian products the organizational issues of which are being clarified.

October 23-25 "Pan Armenia Expo 2009" international exhibition will be conducted in Yerevan. It is being conducted in Armenia for the 3d time. In the sidelines of the event businessmen from Armenia and other countries will get acquainted with the Armenian market. Besides the exhibition October 23 All-Armenian economic conference will be conducted during which the businessmen will get acquainted with each others' activity in more details. During the event Armenia's investment conditions, economic situation will be presented.

"We put the main accent on encouraging Armenian producers. Armenian businessmen, getting acquainted with their foreign partners, establishing ties, get an opportunity to export own products to different markets. We invite foreign businessmen and the ones of Armenian decent. With its traditions it is a universal international exhibition," Amiryanyan said.

The exhibition will promote the encouragement of Armenian producers, create a healthy competitive environment. Businessmen from different countries expressed readiness to participate in the event. Amiryanyan said that currently preparatory works are in process and the list of participants is being clarified.

## 41. RUSSIAN CLASSES TO FUNCTION IN 40 SCHOOLS OF THE REPUBLIC [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Classes of Russian language will function in 40 schools this year in Armenia: 16 of them in Yerevan and the rest in the provinces.

Leading specialist of the Armenian Education and Science Ministry's Secondary Education Department Lilia Balasanyan told Armenpress that classes of Russian are very few or does not exist in the provinces. In Syunik, Vayots Dzor they do not exist and in Armavir, Tavush are very few.

The number of pupils included in the classes is not finally clarified but according to approximate calculations 8000 pupils will be included in them. According to the "Entrance Rules of Pupils of Armenian State Secondary and Special Secondary Educational Establishment", those children are included in the



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Russian classes who are of Russian origin or one of the parents has Russian citizenship and those who till 6 years studied in Russia.

"If a pupil studied in Russia for six years then he/she continues education in Armenia majoring in Russian and if a pupil studied in Russia less than six year he/she the first year in Armenia studies in Russian class and then transfers to the Armenian one," Balasanyan said.

She noted that the number of schools having Russian classes has remained unchanged during the recent years but compared with 2003 their number has decreased.

## 42. THIRTEEN SCHOOLS IN ARMAVIR PROVINCE ARE BEING RECONSTRUCTED [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Reconstruction works are being carried out in 13 out of 119 secondary schools of the Armenian province of Armavir. Head of the Education, Science, Sports and Culture Department of the Armavir Governor's Office Gayane Sahakyan told Armenpress that mainly roofs of the school buildings, heating systems and toilets are being reconstructed and new windows are being placed. From September 1 newly constructed school of the Noravan community will be operated.

According to the 2008 information, 39,169 pupils studied in 119 secondary schools. This year the number of first-grade pupils in the province according to the initial information will exceed 3000.

Five out of the 119 schools will become high schools, three of them will function in Vagharshapat, one in Armavir and one in Metsamor towns.

Seven colleges and academies are functioning in the Armavir province, four in Armavir and three in Etchmiadzin towns.

Twenty four out of the 55 kinder-gartens of the province are in Armavir, Etchmiadzin and Metsamor towns.

## 43. A CENTER OF SCIENCE ON URARTU TO BE ESTABLISHED ON THE BASIS OF "EREBUNI" HISTORICAL-ARCHEOLOGICAL RESERVE-MUSEUM [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Head of the "Erebuni" historical-archeological reserve-museum Ashot Piliposian intends to establish a center of studies on science on Urartu on the basis of the museum.

A. Piliposian told Armenpress that a laboratory of study of ancient materials has already been established which is saturated with best equipments. The anthropological materials on pre-Urartu and Urartu period as well as ancient anthropological issues are being studied.

For already one year courses of study of the cuneiform are being held in the museum and from September two new subjects will be studied in the museum – bio archeology, the archeology of the metal age of the Armenian highland and the Urartu. The courses are entirely free; all the expenditures are conducted by the museum.

A. Piliposian assured that only the best professionals will teach. Already numerous young people have expressed wish to study. "The courses are being held, there is a laboratory and all the necessary facilities; it means that we have the potential to establish a center of study of Urartu science. We intend to raise issue on it hoping there will be feedbacks," A. Piliposian said.

According to him many specialists in Turkey deal with the study of cuneiform on Urartu science.

"If we do not establish a suchlike center in the nearest 4-5 years I am sure that one of the best periods of our history will be presented by our neighbors," A. Piliposian noted.

## 44. ARMENIAN DIASPORA MINISTER RECEIVES ARMENIAN AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Armenian Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan received August 27 German newly appointed Armenian ambassador to Germany Armen Martirosyan.

Diaspora Ministry press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides discussed issues on works conducted with the Armenian community in Germany. The minister underscored creation of specialized establishments, intensification of educational issue in the community and establishment of one-day schools.

H. Hakobyan also referred to the financial assistance to be provided to the Center of Armenology of the Berlin Open University since January 2010.

An agreement has been reached to establish a group of relatives of Armenian Diaspora Ministry, youth institutions affiliated to the embassies as well as intensification of cultural and organizational issues in the communities.



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## 45. CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN ELECTIVE AUTHORITIES ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the European Elective Authorities Association will be held in Yerevan September 3-5. The main theme of the conference is "Forensic Defense of the Electoral Right". About 150 representatives from different international organizations and more than 30 countries will participate in the event.

Chairman of the Armenian Electoral Commission Garegin Azaryan said today at a press conference that the conference will be conducted in Yerevan for the first time.

A number of countries including Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Macedonia, Slovenia, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be represented by chairmen of the Central Electoral Commissions. Representatives from Turkey, Venezuela and Bulgaria will also arrive. From USA chairman and executive director of IFES Board of Directors will take part and will also have meetings with representatives of Armenian CEC. The conference will refer to other themes as well.

The organizers of the event are Armenian CEC and European Elective Authorities Association with the support of OSCE Yerevan office and Armenian branch of International Fund of Electoral systems.

## 46. MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT TO VISIT SCHOOLS SEPTEMBER 1 [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Members of the Armenian government on September 1 – first day of the academic year – as a tradition will visit different schools of the republic.

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan asked members of the government not to violate the already formed tradition. "We all must be in schools on that day in festive mood," Tigran Sargsyan said.

## 47. "VIVACELL" COMPANY STARTED CLASSES FOR THE IT SPHERE STUDENTS OF ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

"VivaCell-MTS" OJSC has started to conduct special classes for the Armenian students of IT sphere, Director of the company Ralph Yirikyan said at today's meeting with journalists adding that 30 students from different higher educational establishments of the republic participated in the classes of the first round, which were conducted August 26-27. According to him, for maintaining the continuous nature of the process the company will visit different higher educational establishments operating in the territory of the republic to sign corresponding memorandum-contracts.

R. Yirikyan said the classes will enable the students to gain knowledge on the management of leading technologies by combining the theoretical with the practical and by simultaneously hearing the answers to the questions concerning them. Within the framework of the initiative the students brought together from all the corners of Armenia will have the opportunity of sharing their experience and of gaining new skills.

"The young generation is the future of our country, and for the formation of that future the company will exert all its efforts to convey to the new generation its professional skills, knowledge and experience", R. Yirikyan said. He noted that the new school appears to be also a support project within the framework of the program on supporting higher educational education in Armenia.

At the end of the event graduate certificates were given to the students of the lectures held on the above-mentioned days, and for the participation in the upcoming classes a reception was held in the central office of the company.

## 48. APPLICATIONS FOR LIVING IN STUDENTS' HOSTEL BEING RECEIVED [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

Applications for living in students' hostel of "Zeitun Student Community" Foundations are already being received. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation consists of representatives of state universities and the chairman is Education and Science Minister.

Head of the Ministry's service department Ara Khachatryan told Armenpress that the hostel is in good condition and is intended for 400 students. The board has already received 15 applications from students. The deadline for receiving applications is the end of September.

According to the rule, this year a student must annually pay 60,000 AMD.



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## 49. FOREST RESTORATION WORKS TO BE CONDUCTED IN "PLATAN PARK" STATE RESERVE [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

Forest restoration works will start in near future in "Platan Park" state reserve affiliated to the Armenian Nature Protection Ministry. Head of the Nature and Nature Usage Economy Department of the Ministry Ashot Harutyunyan told Armenpress that a number of works will be carried out and a house for forest guard will be built to ensure the security of the park.

Head of the Ministry's Department of Management of Special Protection Territories Aram Aghasyan said that the "Platan Park" is the only park of natural platans and is the biggest one in Caucasus.

He said as a result of illegal cuttings during the recent 12 years and agricultural activity of residents of Nerkin Hand community the forest is under threat. Aghamyan said that as a result of restoration activity the efficiency of nature protection works will increase.

## 50. ROAD POLICE TO CONDUCT "ATTENTION CHILDREN!" EVENT SEPTEMBER 1-10 [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

Armenian Road Police will conduct "Attention Children!" event September 1-10 directed toward ensuring secure and save traffic near all the educational establishments of the republic. At a press conference today head of the Armenian Road Police Margar Ohanyan said that every year this event is being conducted and gradually the number of accidents during these days is reducing.

Last year during September 1-10 4 road accidents occurred without victims.

M. Ohanyan said this year as of today 1208 road accidents occurred killing 207 people, injuring 1709. Last year during the same period 1340 accidents occurred taking lives of 247, injuring 1955.

## 51. PARTICIPANTS OF COME HOME PROGRAM VISIT KHOR VIRAP [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/29/09]

The participants of the third stage of the Come Home program visited Khor Virap complex on August 24.

After a regular interactive lesson the participants took the cameras and left for the monastery-castle. The children were impressed by the history of the monastery as if they discovered for anew the events concerning the 1700 years old history of the strong and graceful Khor Virap.

The lively atmosphere lasted till Artashat, the regional center of Ararat. Regional Governor Vardgez Hovakimian and Deputy Governor Samvel Minasian met the participants of the program. The cultural program which was held by the regional council was full of Armenian folk songs and dances. The Diasporan Armenian young people being inspired by the lively rhythms of Armenian dances did not lose their heads and joining the participants of the concert took a round dance.

The program of the day was full and pithy.

The photos of the events will remind the participants of the Come Home program of the unforgettable days spent in their Homeland for a long time.

## 52. MUNICIPALITY OF DIARBEEKIR TO REPAIR ARMENIAN CEMETERY [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/29/09]

The Municipality of Diarbekir has made a decision to repair the local Armenian cemetery which has been neglected and abandoned for a long time. According to the Marmara daily, the Municipality has organized work to develop the cemetery and environment, to repair the walls, put in order the lighting, repair the building of the entrance which it realizes with success. 250 trees and 500 flower-gardens were planted in the territory of the cemetery. A guard and a controller were appointed there.

## 53. ABOUT 36,000 FIRST-GRADERS TO GO TO SCHOOLS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

This year about 36,000 first-graders will go to secondary schools of the republic. Head of the Secondary Education Department of the Education and Science Ministry Narine Hovhannisyan told Armenpress that this is the initial number of this year's first-graders as until September 5 documents of first-graders will be accepted and only after it their exact number will be known.

Hovhannisyan also added that the 48 high schools of the republic will not have first-graders. Instead, in these educational establishments the low graders will gradually vanish and in 5-6 years only 10-12 grades will function in high schools.



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By the end of the program of formation of high schools it is expected to have 150 schools.

## 54. L. ALAVERDYAN SAYS ARMENIAN POLITICAL POWERS MUST UNITE FOR THE POSITIVE SOLUTION OF NK ISSUE [ARMENPRESS, 08/31/09]

No hot events are expected in the Armenian political field in autumn, but some rearrangements are possible to take place, member of RA NA "Heritage" faction Larisa Alaverdyan said at today's press conference adding that it would be a hot autumn, if the political parties united in the issues important for Armenia. According to L. Alaverdyan, one of those issues is Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution. "We all should unite around NK conflict positive solution. Unfortunately, it is only a wish, as political powers exploit NK issue for reaching their goals", L. Alaverdyan said.

In her opinion, the postponements of the Federation hinders that "Heritage", Armenian National Congress and Armenian Revolutionary Federation get united. "I cannot say whether these 3 powers will unite around some issue. Nevertheless, it is a long time that we and ARF cooperate in different issues.

## SPORTS

## 55. HOVHANNES DAVTYAN WINS BRONZE IN WORLD JUDO CUP [ARMENPRESS, 08/28/09]

Armenian judoist Hovhannes Davtyan (60 kg) won bronze medal in the World Judo Cup held in the Dutch town of Rotterdam.

In the ¼ the Armenian judoist was defeated by Japanese Harukao Harukao. In the additional fight he beat Iranian athlete and won the bronze medal. This is the first medal of Armenian athletes in world cup.

Another Armenian judoist Armen Nazaryan was defeated in the first fight and Robert Vardanyan has not had a fight yet.

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