



TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

IN THIS ISSUE

1. Azrbaijan's sabotage act aimed to provoke hostilities, Sayran Ohanian says
2. OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs issue statement
3. First Armenian president meets with EU special representative
4. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel
5. Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel to Visit Yerevan Next Year
6. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan delivers speech in Adenauer Foundation
7. The intrusion of the Azerbaijani intelligence group into the NKR territory is provocation
8. It is necessary to take all possible measures to lower tension, Peter Semneby says
9. Hovhanness Margaryan: Serzh Sargsyan is conducting balanced, nation-oriented, policy of peaceful solution of the issue
10. Armenian President departs for Nagorno Karabakh
11. Swedish Goran Lindblad elected PACE co-rapporteur on the Armenian issue
12. Development of relations with the Arab world is one of the priorities of the Armenia's foreign policy
13. Edward Nalbandyan: Armenian-Turkish relations may be intensified when Turkey respects the arrangements reached beforehand
14. Tigran Davtyan: Armenia has returned to the new economic development phase
15. PM Tigran Sargsyan attached importance to the deepening of economic cooperation and the full use of the existing potential
16. Armenian government discusses Candle center project
17. The RA Ministers of Diaspora and Defense signed a joint decree on cooperation
18. Minister Hranush Hakobyan awards certificate of RA Diaspora Ministry to Sona Van
19. Armenians must take bold, pre-emptive measures to counter all hostile acts *By Harut Sassounian Publisher, The California Courier*
20. Cross-stone dedicated to Armenian Genocide to be placed in the court of St. Hakob Church of Canada
21. 'Come Home' Project Kicks Off
22. "Falsifiers" to be presented within the frameworks of Armenian-Austrian cooperation program
23. Armenian and Turkish Classical Musicians Form Orchestra
24. 17 Children Live in "SOS" children's village of Ijevan
25. Renowned Turkish intellectual Taner Akcham is in Tehran at the invitation of the commission commemorating the 95th anniversary of the Great Armenian Genocide
26. 230 doctors trained by "Training of Province Doctors" program of Fund for Armenian Relief
27. Austrian "Cercle Diplomatique et Economique International" magazine dedicated some pages to Armenia

POLITICS

1. Azrbaijan's sabotage act aimed to provoke hostilities, Sayran Ohanian says [Noyan Tapan, 06/22/10]

Armenian Minister of Defence Seyran Ohanian called the June 18 action of Azerbaijani armed forces a "provocative sabotage act aimed at destabilizing the situation along the Armenian-Azerbaijani contact line and provoking hostilities". During a talk with reporters, the minister refuted the information spread by the Azerbaijani side to the effect that the Armenian servicemen allegedly went into the offensive. He pointed out that the attack on the Nagorno Karabakh position is an undeniable fact as the body of a member of the attacking party remained there.

According to S. Ohanian, if the incident is not an act of sabotage - which the Azerbaijani claim, then it is an unauthorized act, which proves that the Azerbaijani side cannot keep its military units under control. "We once again come to the conclusion that Azerbaijan's excessive armament results in the fact that some commanders get out of control and take separate actions," the minister said.

2. OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs issue statement [Noyan Tapan, 06/22/10]



The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Ambassador Igor Popov of Russia, Bernard Fassier of France, and Robert Bradtke of the United States, released the following statement today:

According to reports of the Ministries of Defense of Armenia and Azerbaijan, an armed incident took place during the night of June 18-19, 2010, in the northern part of the Line of Contact, resulting in casualties.

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Ambassadors Bernard Fassier of France, Robert Bradtke of the United States of America, and Igor Popov of the Russian Federation strongly condemn the use of force and regret the senseless loss of life. Such an incident is an unacceptable violation of the 1994 Ceasefire Agreement and is contrary to the stated commitment of the sides to refrain from the use of force or the threat of the use of force.

The incident took place immediately after the meeting between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, held in St. Petersburg on June 17 at the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation to pursue the negotiation of peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The use of military force, particularly at this moment, can only be seen as an attempt to damage the peace process. Therefore the Co-Chairs call upon the sides to exercise restraint on the terrain as well as in their public communications and prepare their population for peace and not for war. They reiterate that there is no alternative to a peaceful negotiation solution of the conflict and that war is not an option. Finally they also call upon the sides to cooperate fully with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman in Office and do nothing that would impede his monitoring activities.

3. First Armenian president meets with EU special representative [Noyan Tapan, 06/22/10]

The first Armenian President, leader of the Armenian National Congress (ANC) Levon Ter-Petrosian met on June 21 with the Special Representative of the European Union to the South Caucasus Peter Semneby.

NT was informed by the head office of the ANC that issues related to Armenian-Turkish relations and the Karabakh conflict settlement were discussed at the meeting. The interlocutors also spoke about the internal political situation in Armenia, in particular the release of the political prisoners, and the freedom of assembly and speech.

ANC representatives David Shahnazarian, Avetis Avagian, and Vahan Papazian participated in the meeting.

4. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel [Armenpress, 06/23/10]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan who is in Germany on an official visit met today with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Presidential press office told Armenpress that issues on development of bilateral relations as well as using of the opportunities of the multi-sided format cooperation have been discussed at the meeting.

Armenian president noted that the bilateral meetings move forward political dialogue and give opportunity to deepen cooperation with Germany in all the spheres. Serzh Sargsyan said that Armenia views Armenian-German cooperation as an important element in the European integration process.

The parties referred to the development of trade economic ties, noting that about 80 companies with German capital are functioning in Armenia which is a good basis for expanding cooperation in the investment sphere.

President Sargsyan and Chancellor Merkel discussed also South Caucasian issues. Serzh Sargsyan welcomed German's balanced policy in the region. Referring to the Nagorno Karabakh issue President Serzh Sargsyan said that Azerbaijan is always coming forth with military rhetoric endangering not only Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiations but also the regional stability in general.

Speaking about the Armenia-Turkey relations, Armenian president expressed regret that the efforts of Armenia and the international community directed toward the regulation of relations and opening of the last closed border in Europe remained without result as Turkey used the process with other aims and stepped back from the agreed principles of negotiations.

The parties also highlighted the necessity of normalization of the Armenia-Turkey relations without preconditions and peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. At the end of the meeting Serzh Sargsyan and Chancellor Angela Merkel gave a short press conference.

5. Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel to Visit Yerevan Next Year [Armenpress, 06/23/10]



Chancellor of the German Federation Angela Merkel will visit Yerevan next year. This was stated at the press conference, held after the meeting of RA President Serzh Sargsyan and Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel.

'We think the process of reforms in Armenia goes on well. We want to transmit a new impetus to the bilateral economic relations. There are some opportunities to increase the volume,' Chancellor Angela Merkel mentioned.

According to the President of Armenia, the German-Armenian economic relations achieved the point, when some addenda are necessary in the legal-agreement base.

'Taking into account the strong role Germany plays in the establishments of the European Union, we think that the German-Armenian relations are an important part of the policy of Armenia's integration to Europe,' Mr. Serzh Sargsyan mentioned.

As to the process of negotiation of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Angela Merkel mentioned that the format of the OSCE Minsk Group is the best way of settling the issue. 'In the region people wish to live in peace,' she said.

In answer to the question of a German journalist, RA President stated that 'Armenian-Turkish relations, as it is known, do not exist. In 2008 we took the initiative to start relations with them, realizing that the relations could be formed under the condition of a strong political will. We did not manage to see such a will by the Turkish side. We saw that the signed protocols are not being ratified by the Turkish Parliament. In these conditions we stopped the process of ratification of the protocols in the Armenian Parliament. Today's policy does not promote the start of the relations between the states'.

6. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan delivers speech in Adenauer Foundation [Armenpress, 06/23/10]

Yesterday's official visit of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to the Federal Republic of Germany wrapped up with participation in the session entitled "Security and Development in the South Caucasus: the Role of Armenia" summoned in Conrad Adenauer Foundation and with a working dinner with the board of the Eastern economic committee of the Federal Republic of Germany and representatives of business circles.

Armenian presidential press service told Armenpress that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan delivered a speech in the Adenauer Foundation, as well as answered to the questions exciting the guests, and then participated in the reception arranged in honor of the Armenian President.

Conrad Adenauer Foundation, in addition to other functions, is an authoritative platform of discussion of important international public-political issues, where heads of different countries, representatives of the public-political elite and authoritative experts present their viewpoints on up-to-date themes.

The delegation headed by the Armenian President will arrive back in Yerevan today- June 23.

7. The intrusion of the Azerbaijani intelligence group into the NKR territory is provocation [Armenpress, 06/23/10]

Iran excludes the restart of war in the South Caucasus, considering that the intrusion of the Azerbaijani intelligence group into the NKR territory is a provocation, Iranian ambassador to Armenia Seyed Ali Saghayan said today at a meeting with the reporters.

"Within the framework of the Minsk group peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict is possible, and we exclude the possibility of war in this region," he said.

Seyed Ali Saghayan referred also to the USA-Iran relations, noting that Iran is fighting against the establishment of overpower of the USA. "The USA wants to have influence on all the countries rich in oil or having economic potential. We will not allow the USA treat Iran like it treated Iraq or other states," the ambassador said, adding that Iran is a democratic state and wants to implement nuclear energy development program only in peaceful ways. According to him, many countries have already approved that Iran's nuclear program is of peaceful nature.

8. It is necessary to take all possible measures to lower tension, Peter Semneby says [Noyan Tapan, 06/24/10]

The incident in Martakert region of Nagorno Karabakh last weekend shows that the situation along the line of contact is tense and can easily get out of control, the EU Special Representative to the



South Caucasus Peter Semneby told Radio Liberty. He said that it is necessary to take all the possible measures to lower the tension, which will also help find solutions during the negotiations.

Peter Semneby expressed regret at the freezing of the Armenian-Turkish normalization process. He expressed a hope at the same time that the parliaments of the two countries would ratify the protocols.

In his words, the Armenian-Turkish relations and the Karabakh problem are "certainly separate issues" and either has its "own path", but one cannot ignore the fact that either process has "an impact on the general atmosphere and an indirect impact on the other process".

9. Hovhanness Margaryan: Serzh Sargsyan is conducting balanced, nation-oriented, policy of peaceful solution of the issue [Armenpress, 06/25/10]

"We all witnessed that few hours after the trilateral meeting of the presidents the subversive attack on the Nagorno Karabakh defense unions, particularly on border point took place," member of the Orinats Yerkir faction of the National Assembly Hovhannes Margaryan said in conversation with Armenpress, pointing out that though Azerbaijan is always saying that they are signing a document and the conflict must be settled in exclusively peaceful way. Margaryan said that the Armenian side and President Serzh Sargsyan stated many times that we are for exclusively peaceful settlement of the conflict. And the Azerbaijanis, he said, put under doubt the policy they have adopted though in the documents they are assuring the international organizations that they are for peaceful settlement of the conflict but after entering Azerbaijan statements about the usage of force are being voiced. "They showed their face, torn their mask again", Hovhannes Margaryan said, noting that speaking about usage of force will not bring good to Azerbaijan as naturally it is not speaking about democratic values and in this way they first of all harm their country and their authority. "When we are comparing all international organizations, different countries, including Minsk group countries, we see what assessments are given about President Serzh Sargsyan who is conducting balanced, nation-oriented policy of peaceful solution of the issue," he said, regretting that Armenia is dealing with a president like Aliyev.

Referring to the Minsk group co-chair's statement, H. Margaryan said that they criticized, in certain respect condemned what happened. "Again the assessment was not rough, taking into consideration not putting a stop to the peaceful settlement of the conflict, continuation of the negotiations," the parliamentarian said. As to the further negotiations, he said that the interested countries, OSCE Minsk group representatives, France, the US A and Russia all must exert efforts so that that work which has been done by them be brought to its logical end.

"I do not think that Azerbaijan will undertake war activities but we are always ready," Margaryan said, expressing assurance that we must be sober, strong and united. He assured that Azerbaijanis cannot scare the Armenian side. "They always speak pompously-pompously but when the real moment came they saw in reality who they are and who Armenians are," he concluded.

10. Armenian President departs for Nagorno Karabakh [Armenpress, 06/25/10]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan departed today for the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. He visited military hospital where soldiers wounded as a result of June 18 incident were getting treatment.

Armenian president had meetings with the NKR leadership, participated in the opening of new regiment, presidential press office reported.

11. Swedish Goran Lindblad elected PACE co-rapporteur on the Armenian issue [Armenpress, 06/25/10]

Swedish Goran Lindblad has been elected yesterday at the session of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe co-rapporteur on the Armenian issue. He is the head of the Swedish delegation to PACE and member of the parliamentary group of European People's Party.

French parliamentarian George Columbien stated earlier that his tenure as co-rapporteur on the Armenian issue is ending and he is quitting his work. The other co-rapporteur in the Armenian issue is British delegate John Prescott.

12. Development of relations with the Arab world is one of the priorities of the Armenia's foreign policy [Armenpress, 06/25/10]



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, June 25, 2010

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan received today Finance Minister of Kuwait Mustafa Jassim Mohammad al Shamaly. Press and information department of the ministry told Armenpress that welcoming the guest Edward Nalbandyan noted that Armenian and Arabian peoples are connected with each other with friendship dating back to centuries on the basis of which today the interstate relations are developing successfully. The foreign minister added that the development of relations with the Arab world is one of the priorities of the Armenia's foreign policy. He considered the 2008 November visit of the president to Kuwait very crucial, saying that after it progress is being registered in a number of spheres, Armenian embassy has been established in Kuwait.

Kuwait finance minister expressed gratitude for the warm reception and conveyed to Edward Nalbandyan the greetings of vice prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait Sheikh Mohammed Sabah al Salem al Sabah and noted with delight that the arrangements achieved during the visit of the Armenian president are being brought to life.

The guest assured that his country is planning to extend cooperation with friendly Armenia and is already undertaking concrete steps in that direction, noting that his visit will be followed by visits of other high-ranked officials of Kuwait.

The parties thoroughly discussed issues on expansion of cooperation in trade-economic, educational, scientific and agricultural spheres. In this respect the foreign minister noted that Armenian welcomes and assists the investments of Kuwait in different spheres of Armenia's economy.

The Armenian foreign minister highlighted the signing of investment encouraging and protection contract which will be signed today and highlighted the agreeing and signing of the contract on economic and technical cooperation.

The interlocutors noted that the establishment of air communication between Armenia and Kuwait will promote the development of economic partnership.

Edward Nalbandyan asked to convey his warm greetings to his Kuwait counterpart and reconfirm his invitation to visit Yerevan.

13. Edward Nalbandyan: Armenian-Turkish relations may be intensified when Turkey respects the arrangements reached beforehand [Armenpress, 06/25/10]

Armenian-Turkish relations may be intensified when Turkey respects the arrangements reached beforehand and without preconditions ratify the protocols. This viewpoint was expressed today by the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan at a joint press conference with his Austrian counterpart Michael Spindelegger.

"We have started the process with the mutual understanding that there cannot be preconditions and came to the arrangement with the same mutual understanding. There are no preconditions in the protocols but after signing them, Turkey returned to the language of the precondition which it was using before starting this process," Nalbandyan said. According to him, the language of those preconditions was the reason why the process of normalization of relations between the two countries is in a deadlock now. Today Turkey with this or that reason is not able to respect the earlier achieved arrangements.

"The stance of the international community over this issue is clear. The EU, the USA, Russia, different international organizations clearly stated that the protocols must be ratified without preconditions and during reasonable timeframe and the achieved arrangement must be implemented. Today Turkey is not able to respect this approach of the international community," Nalbandyan said.

BUSINESS

14. Tigran Davtyan: Armenia has returned to the new economic development phase [Armenpress, 06/23/10]

During the first months of 2010 Armenia's GDP increased by 8,8%. Finance Minister Tigran Davtyan said today at the meeting with the reporters in the Armenian government that Armenia returned to the new economic development phase. Growth has been registered in all the branches of the economy.

"If previously there was intention that the dynamics of growth will be of irregular nature today we witness an opposite phenomena. Speaking in formal respect the 8,8% is real growth, the nominal growth is higher. Taking all this into consideration we may say that we have reached 2008 state growth results," Tigran Davtyan said.

He particularly singled out the growth of industrial, construction and export spheres. During the recent years the minister said such index of export volume has not been registered yet. Tigran Davtyan



also noted the role of the developments taking place in the global economy, highlighting the measures undertaken by the Armenian government as a result of which Armenia's economy is growing day by day.

15. PM Tigran Sargsyan attached importance to the deepening of economic cooperation and the full use of the existing potential [Noyan Tapan, 06/23/10]

On June 22, RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received the delegation of Iranian businessmen who are in Armenia within the frames of an Armenian-Iranian business forum in Yerevan. The Prime Minister expressed high appreciation of the level of political cooperation between Armenia and Iran, as well as attached importance to the deepening of economic cooperation and the full use of the existing potential.

During the meeting, the interlocutors touched upon the results of the business forum organized with the Armenian Development Bank on June 18. The Iranian businessmen informed that opportunities and perspectives for developing trade-economic relations between Armenia and Iran and investments in Armenia were discussed during the forum. Both parties attached importance to the periodic business forums aimed at strengthening economic ties between the private sectors of both countries.

According to a press release by the Department of Information and Public Relations of the RA Government, attending the meeting were Iran's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Armenia Seyed Ali Saghaian and Honorable President of Armenia-Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industry Levon Aharonyan.

16. Armenian government discusses Candle center project [Noyan Tapan, 06/24/10]

A third-generation 3-GEV synchrotron source of light will be launched in Armenia under the Candle project. It will promote advanced research in fundamental science, serve as a base of expertise, and ensure a qualitatively new level of international cooperation.

At the June 22 meeting of the Candle Project Coordinating Council, the council head, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said that the government made a political decision to co-finance the project in case of assistance to the project by private investors.

The meeting participants discussed the project's current status, the business plan, and the main points of the business impact assessment survey. They also discussed a number of proposals concerning the center's location, status and organization. They took note of the report on the upcoming visit of international experts to Armenia on June 29-30.

DIASPORA

17. The RA Ministers of Diaspora and Defense signed a joint decree on cooperation [Noyan Tapan, 06/22/10]

On June 21, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan and RA Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan signed a decree on cooperation for development of Armenia-Diaspora partnership.

The cooperation envisages holding open Armenian language lessons for soldiers under the program "2010-Year of Mother Language" and organizing literary-musical events in Eastern and Western Armenian at military units.

According to the agreement, Diaspora Armenian youth arriving in Armenia within the framework of "Ari Tun" project will participate in the projects implemented by the editorial staff of "Tsolker" literary-cultural magazine of the RA Ministry of Diaspora and the RA Union of Writers. The RA Ministry of Defense will hand the "Garegin Nzhdeh" medals to those who have made notable contributions to preservation of Armenian identity in the Diaspora and educators.

Cooperation is also envisaged within the framework of "Ari Tun" project for periodic visits of Diaspora Armenian youth to Armenia (June-October), "One Nation, One Culture" Festival, the "Pan-Armenian Youth Chess Olympiad" and other projects.

The two ministries will jointly implement the project "Our Heroes" through which the RA Ministry of Defense will provide the RA Ministry of Diaspora with informative materials about freedom-fighters to disseminate to Diaspora Armenian schools and youth organizations.

To provide materials to Diaspora Armenian communities, the RA Ministry of Defense will provide the RA Ministry of Diaspora with military-patriotic, disciplinary literature, CDs and DVDs, as well as webcasts and satellite broadcasts.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, June 25, 2010

As RA Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan mentioned, “the Diaspora has played a huge role in the victory of Artsakh and our Homeland is strong with the Diaspora.”

Attaching great importance to the RA Defense Minister’s approach, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan said: “All projects of the RA Ministry of Diaspora are of great significance and cooperation will make them more effective and multifaceted.”

As reported by the Department of Media and Public Relations of the RA Ministry of Diaspora, both parties attached importance to the fact that the cooperation must not continue and must include broader spheres.

18. Minister Hranush Hakobyan awards certificate of RA Diaspora Ministry to Sona Van [Armenpress, 06/23/10]

RA Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan took part today in the presentation of famous American-Armenian writer Sona Van’s ‘Parallel Sleeplessness’ book. An official from the press and PR office of RA Diaspora Ministry told Armenpress that the Minister congratulated the writer and mentioned that ‘though Sona Van lives in the US, she returns to Armenia regularly, gets new energy and creates new works, which are characteristic only to the style of Sona Van’.

Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan awarded the certificate of RA Diaspora Ministry to famous writer Sona Van for her activities, aimed at preserving the Armenian nation, and for her significant investment in the cultural-literary cooperation of Armenia and the Diaspora.

19. Armenians must take bold, pre-emptive measures to counter all hostile acts [Noyan Tapan, 06/23/10] By Harut Sassounian Publisher, The California Courier

Having been victimized by many conquerors throughout history, Armenians have developed a strong instinct for survival. To stay out of trouble, they have learned to be loyal and even subservient to the states that ruled over them.

While Armenians gained plenty of “moral victories,” their actual battlefield successes have been few and far between. One has to go back to two thousand years to find a rare example of a conquering Armenian ruler, King Tigran the Great (140-55 BC) whose vast empire extended from the Caspian to the Mediterranean Sea. In the modern era, prior to the Armenian Genocide, Armenian Freedom Fighters (Fedayees) fought back against the murderous Turks and Kurdish mercenaries. During the Genocide, the Armenians of Aintab, Hajin, Musa Dagh, Sassoun, Van, and Zeitoun bravely defended themselves, while 1.5 million of their kinsmen were slaughtered like sheep. The heroic Battle of Sardarabad saved the remnants of the Armenian people in Eastern Armenia, culminating in the establishment of the first Armenian Republic in 1918. Finally, beginning in 1988, brave young men and women battled the much larger and better armed forces of Azerbaijan to liberate Artsakh (Karabagh).

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many western missionaries, tradesmen, writers and adventurers, often described the Armenians they encountered in the Ottoman Empire as “cringing.” Canadian-Armenian website KEGHART.COM, in an editorial posted last week, quoted Dr. William Goodell’s depiction of the Armenians of Constantinople in 1871: “Four centuries of torture, of oppression, and of suspense have stamped its impress upon an entire community... constant fear, constant agony, constant humiliation have so crushed out every trace of manhood, that they are still cringing, fawning, an abject race. Several generations of happier descendants can alone efface the mental taints acquired in those long years of vassalage.”

Regrettably, many Armenians have yet to overcome the “slave mentality” -- deeply ingrained in their psyche -- inherited from ancestors who lived for centuries under foreign yoke. One comes across countless examples of self-effacing behavior in Armenian communities throughout the Diaspora and in Armenia itself. All too often Armenians meekly accept injustices and insults heaped on them by others.

It is high time that Armenians throw off their shackles and defend their inalienable rights. They must not remain silent in the face of abuse or physical attack, but respond appropriately without resorting to reckless actions that may endanger their communities or the homeland.

In the United States, for example, when elected officials, journalists or writers distort the facts of the Armenian Genocide, they must be severely criticized and discredited, so others would be warned to refrain from Genocide denial.

The most recent example of Armenian inaction is the feeble Armenian response to last week’s night-time attack by Azeri forces on Artsakh, causing the deaths of four Armenian soldiers and the wounding of four others. Beyond expressions of sympathy for the victims and condemning the attack, no concrete action was taken by Armenian officials.



In the aftermath of this vicious and unprovoked attack, Armenia should have announced the cancellation of the next round of negotiations with Azerbaijan over Artsakh. It is completely unacceptable to conduct peace talks, while Azerbaijan is engaged in warfare. Under these circumstances, Armenians have the right to take all possible actions to defend themselves from future attacks. Rather than merely issuing a condemnation, the Armenian side at a time of its choosing should carry out punishing pre-emptive strikes so that Azeris would think long and hard before mounting another attack. Azerbaijan should clearly understand that any further aggression on their part would:

1. Cause the suspension of the peace talks, thus delaying the resolution of the conflict rather than expediting the negotiating process.
2. Lead Armenia to eventually abandon all peace talks, since it has little to gain from these negotiations. Azerbaijan is the one that desperately needs to negotiate in order to secure concessions from Armenia.
3. Signal to the world that the government of Azerbaijan is not interested in finding a negotiated settlement to the conflict and is responsible for its collapse.
4. Discredit the good faith effort of the mediating countries – France, Russia and the United States.
5. Force Armenia to initiate military action, causing a disproportionate amount of destruction, even damaging the oil pipelines, in order to discourage Azerbaijan from further attacks.

Armenians must realize that they no longer live in the Ottoman Empire and are no one's slave. They should shake off their psychological shackles and take all necessary measures to defend their national interest!

20. Cross-stone dedicated to Armenian Genocide to be placed in the court of St. Hakob Church of Canada [Armenpress, 06/25/10]

Cross-stone maker Varazdat Hambarzumyan, laureate of the international contest of artists conducted in Moscow by "Peacemaker" international alliance organization will hold an exhibition in summer in Austria. One of his cross-stones will be placed this year in the court of St Hakob Church of Canada dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide committed in Turkey.

The cross-maker told Armenpress that the cross was initially intended to place in April, but taking into consideration some difficulties connected with documents, it will be placed in September and will be dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

People's master Varazdat Hambarzumyan is an author of over 400 cross-stones. The cross-stones made by him are placed in different sites not only of Armenia, but in Greece, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, Turkey – inside the wall of an Armenian church, in the USA, Russia, Ukraine, etc as well. Several cross-stones are dedicated to the memory of those perished in the Artsakh war and are placed in the court of the Yerevan State University of Architecture, in front of the State Pedagogical University after Khachatur Abovyan, in Monte Melkonyan Military College.

21. 'Come Home' Project Kicks Off [Armenpress, 06/25/10]

The opening ceremony of RA Diaspora Ministry's "Come Home" project was held today.

Head of RA Diaspora Ministry's Division on All-Armenian Projects Jenya Azizyan told Armenpress that the 90 participants of the 'Come Home' project arrived today from Canada, Syria, Russia, Latvia, the USA and Georgia.

'In contrast to the requirements of the last year, age limit of the participants have been changed this year. Last year 14-25- year-old persons had the opportunity to partake in the project, this year the participants are required to be between the ages of 13 and 20. The reason is that the project is educational-cultural, so that it is suitable for the young,' Jenya Azizyan said.

The participants will stay at the houses of the Armenian families, which agreed to host them free of charge. 'During these two weeks the participants will visit Echmiadzin, Garni, Geghard, Sevan, Oshakan, as well as attend classes of dances and Armenology,' RA Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan said.

According to RA Diaspora Minister, this year the number of participants of the project increased two times. Last year over 300 people partook in the project.

'The participants of the project establish perfect relations with their host-families,' the minister said. 'I wish all the participants to be infected with the virus, called 'Armenia', and never find any cure,' Mrs. Hranush Hakobyan added.



ARTS

22. “Falsifiers” to be presented within the frameworks of Armenian-Austrian cooperation program [Armenpress, 06/23/10]

The showing of “Falsifiers” Austrian feature film, which has deserved many awards, will be held June 25 in “Moscow” cinema within the frameworks of the Armenian-Austrian cultural cooperation program.

Culture Ministry of Armenia told Armenpress that the film will be presented in German, with English titles.

The program is implemented collaboratively with the Austrian Embassy in Armenia, on the occasion of Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger's visit to Armenia.

23. Armenian and Turkish Classical Musicians Form Orchestra [Armenpress, 06/23/10]

Nvard Andreyan, Istanbul-based Armenian conductor, and Chairperson of the Board of ‘Anadolu Kültür’ NGO Osman Kavala, formed an orchestra of Armenian and Turkish classical musicians. The orchestra intends to give 10 concerts July in Istanbul and September in Yerevan, Turkish Hurriyet daily reports.

The initiative is aimed at creating stable platform of intercultural dialogue. The joint orchestra is comprised of 35 young musicians from each of the countries. The orchestra will start its rehearsals July 5 at Bogaziji University in Istanbul. The first concert of the orchestra will take place July 12 at Bogaziji University, the second one- July 14 in Aya Irine.

SOCIAL

24. 17 Children Live in “SOS” children’s village of Ijevan [Armenpress, 06/23/10]

Seventeen children live in seven families of “SOS” children's village of Ijevan. They are from different communities of Tavush province. Director of the children's village Ashot Galstyan told Armenpress that he has started his mission in Ijevan from February 2010, and over these months he has managed to find children who need serious social support to hand them to the care of socially skillful specialists.

“We have not put a goal to add the number of the children living in “SOS” children's village. We only want to ensure good childhood for the children who really need our support,” A. Galstyan said.

This village is intended for 14 families, where nearly 90 children can live.

25. Renowned Turkish intellectual Taner Akcham is in Tehran at the invitation of the commission commemorating the 95th anniversary of the Great Armenian Genocide [Noyan Tapan, 06/23/10]

Renowned Turkish writer, intellectual, historian, Professor at US “Clark” University Taner Akcham is in Tehran at the invitation of the commission commemorating the 95th anniversary of the Great Armenian Genocide formed by the Prelacy of the Armenian Diocese of Tehran.

According to “Arax” weekly, T. Akcham will give a press conference on June 23 and the premiere of the Persian translation of his book “A Shameful act” will be held at the hall of “Armenian Club” in the evening of that same day.

Attending the events will be professors from Iranian universities, Iranian intellectuals, as well as representatives of Armenian unions and organizations.

26. 230 doctors trained by “Training of Province Doctors” program of Fund for Armenian Relief [Armenpress, 06/25/10]

230 doctors from Armenian provinces and Artsakh have already been trained within the frameworks of the program of “Training of Province Doctors” implemented from 2005 on the initiative of the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR).

Coordinator of the program Hambardzum Simonyan told Armenpress that the doctors involved in the program have been trained in the leading clinics of Yerevan. Their selection is made as a result of preliminary studies.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, June 25, 2010

This year 25 doctors from Armenian provinces and Nagorno Karabakh have already been trained. The program will be continued till the end of the year, over 20 doctors will be trained within its frameworks. H. Simonyan said that one-day workshop has been organized collaboratively by the chairs of Yerevan State Medical University Department of Continuous Education and Obstetrics-Gynecology Department dedicated to the up-to-date issues of obstetrics, gynecology and onco-gynecology. It has been conducted for 15-20 midwife-gynecologists who participate in the program of "Training of Province Doctors".

Medical accessories have been provided over the year to a number of medical institutions of Yerevan and Armenian provinces by the Fund for Armenian Relief. H. Simonyan said that the extended aid will help to improve the healthcare service quality of about 2 dozen of medical institutions.

H. Simonyan noted that over the year he intends organization of a meeting with all the doctors trained within the frameworks of the program, the goal of which is conduction of a qualification class.

27. Austrian "Cercle Diplomatique et Economique International" magazine dedicated some pages to Armenia [Armenpress, 06/25/10]

In the last issue of the Austrian three month magazine of "Cercle diplomatique et economique international", intended for diplomats, businessmen and for the members of the government, several pages have been dedicated to Armenia and Armenian people.

Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry press service told Armenpress that interviews with Armenian Ambassador to Armenia Ashot Hovakimyan and Vienna-based world famous soprano Hasmik Papyan have been published in the magazine, here are also materials about the Austrian-Armenian community, Mechitarist Congregation of Vienna and about the Lebanese-Armenian family of the Mazbanyans, which has acquired high reputation in the recent years in the sphere of Vienna jewelry.

Over 100 Million USD Invested in "Armenal" during 10 Year Activity [Armenpress, 06/25/10]

During the 10 year activity of "Armenal" factory over 100 million USD has been put into production.

Press Secretary of the company Alexander Melkumyan told Armenpress that the product of the factory is exported to the international market in 100 %. The enterprise is one of the largest in the region, the only producer of foil in Caucasus and Central Asia, the product of which is currently realized in the markets of the Near East, Europe, Africa and Northern America.

A. Melkonyan said that in the conditions of the global economic crisis the factory has not suffered, moreover, it has continued to work, registering growth of indexes; this year over 40 % growth has been registered against the June and May of 2009. The factory is in normal conditions in regard to engineering, too. Currently the number of the employees exceeds the 700; the average salary is 240 thousand AMD.

Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

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.