



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, September 28, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. ARFD DOES NOT DEMAND PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION, BECAUSE IT WILL PUT COUNTRY IN CONCUSSIONS AGAIN, ARFD DEPUTY SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

The conscious part of the nation expresses its agreement to the ARFD's suggestions to make changes in Armenian-Turkish Protocols published on August 31. RA NA ARFD faction member Ruzan Arakelian reported this at a September 24 press conference adding that "queues were formed" for joining the signature collection held by Dashnaksutiun.

"We should say no to the Protocols and it should take place in the Republic of Armenia thanks to the efforts of all Armenians living abroad, and we should prevent the signing of the initiated protocols," another participant of the press conference, NA Heritage faction member Zaruhi Postanjian said. She expressed regret that ARFD took such steps only now instead of doing it 10 years ago, it made part of the power violating human rights, including freedom of expression. She noted that ARFD was part of that power even after the ill-famed events of March 1, 2008 and supported Serzh Sargsyan. According to Z. Postanjian, ARFD now also does not demand President's resignation and demanding only the resignation of Foreign Minister means not to say the final word and not to demand.

Opposing to the other speaker R. Arakelian declared that ARFD's being part of the power was not an end in itself: the party thought that being in power it could prevent and prevented the problems of the country. ARFD does not demand President's resignation, because it will put country in concussions again.

According to R. Arakelian, on the occasion of March 1 events Dashnaksutiun has done whatever a tender-hearted political force, which thinks about the country, should do.

2. ADAM SCHIFF: WE CANNOT LET TURKEY EDIT HISTORY [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

Representatives of Armenian Council of America (ACA) met with Congressman Adam Schiff. The interlocutors discussed the latest developments on adoption of the Armenian Genocide resolution, US-Armenia relations, Armenia-Turkey relations, and the Obama administration's policies toward Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. The ACA representatives thanked and praised Congressman Schiff for his support to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and the sovereignty of Nagorno Karabakh. According to the panarmenian.net, the congressman reaffirmed his position touching upon the Armenian-Turkish relations.

"I welcome the process of normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations and I hope that as a result of the negotiations the border will be opened and diplomatic relations will be established between Ankara and Yerevan. However meanwhile I have serious concerns about the protocols of the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations," Adam Schiff declared.

The American Congressman declared that he is deeply disappointed with the fact that the protocols call for the creation of an historical commission to review the events of 1915-23. "We cannot let Turkey edit the history and it become the price of the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations," Adam Schiff said.

3. NATO SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

NATO Special Committee meeting will be held between September 28 to 30 in Yerevan. It will be dedicated to discussion of issues of fighting terrorism, extremism, illegal migration and organized crime, as well as foreign relations management and cooperation with NATO. The meeting was organized by the NATO Special Committee and the RA National Security Service (NSS).

According to a report by the RA NSS Press Center, 32 representatives of 21 NATO countries will take part in the meeting. Representatives of the RA Defence Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Emergency Situations Ministry, Police, and the National Security Council will also attend the meeting.



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4. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT AND EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SOUTH CAUCASUS DISCUSS ARMENIA-EU AGENDA [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today EU Special Representative to the South Caucasus Peter Semneby.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the president of the Republic and EU special representative discussed the expanding agenda of Armenia-EU partnership. They agreed that "Eastern Partnership" program has a notable potential and will give new content to the relations.

President Sargsyan and Peter Semneby referred to the normalization process of Armenian-Turkish relations. President Sargsyan once again pointed out that the parties from the beginning conducted negotiations and came to mutual understanding that the relations between the two countries must be regulated without pre-conditions and any step back may endanger the whole process.

Peter Semneby reconfirmed the support of the EU to the normalization process of the Armenian-Turkish relations and expressed hope that this historic initiative of Armenia will be a success.

5. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT TO START HIS ALL-ARMENIAN TOUR OCTOBER 1 [Azg, 09/26/09]

A one-week All-Armenian tour of the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to Armenian communities will kick off October 1. The deputy head of the Armenian president's staff Vigen Sargsyan told today to reporters that it is necessary to single out the goal of the tour and its symbol: the goal is to listen to the opinion of Diaspora and its approaches toward such important issue as the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations. And here the important thing is the symbol of the visit: for the first time the president is making such an all-national tour the goal of which is to be in all the Armenian-populated communities where the public opinion of Diaspora and its approaches are being formed.

Armenian president will visit Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Beirut and Rostov on Don where he will have regional meetings.

The Armenian side has not asked political meetings in any of the visiting countries as the goal of the visit is only contacts with Diaspora. In each of the cities the president will spend not more than 24 hours which is not enough for conducting any other additional event. The only exclusion is Los Angeles where the president is going to give an extended interview to one of the Armenian channels functioning there.

6. DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER K. GHAZINYAN AND P. SEMNEBY DISCUSS ISSUES ON ARMENIA-EU COOPERATION [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/26/09]

Armenian deputy foreign affairs minister Karine Ghazinyan received today EU special representative in South Caucasus Peter Semneby, who has paid a visit to Armenia. The latter was accompanied by the head of the delegation of European Commission to Armenia, Ambassador Raul de Luzenberger and Lithuanian Ambassador to Armenia Gedrius Apuokas, who represents EU Sweden chairmanship as well.

Public relations department of RA Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that deputy minister Ghazinyan, highly assessing Armenia's relations with EU, referred to the initiative of EU Eastern Partnership expressing hope that it will give a new impetus to the cooperation between RA and EU, as well as between the countries of the region.

During the meeting Ghazinyan and Ambassador Semneby discussed issues on different spheres of the cooperation of Armenia and European Union.

With the request of the guest the Armenian deputy foreign minister presented Armenia's position on the latest progress of Armenian-Turkish relations and Artsakh issue.

7. SECRETARY OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL RECEIVES RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

Secretary for National Security Council Arthur Baghdasaryan received today Russian Ambassador to Armenia Vyacheslav Kovalenko.

Press office of the Secretary of National Security Council told Armenpress that the interlocutors highly assessed the current level of Armenian-Russian relations. Arthur Baghdasaryan underscored that Armenia and Russia actively cooperate in different directions as strategic partners. A close cooperation has been established between the security councils of the two countries as well.



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The sides shared the same viewpoint on the necessity of giving a new impetus to the cooperation in the spheres of security, economy, education and culture.

The ambassador handed to Arthur Baghdasaryan the new strategy of Russian National security.

8. EDWARD NALBANDYAN CONDUCTS A NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan, who is in New York on a working visit, participated September 26 in the gathering of the foreign ministers of the CSTO.

Armenian Foreign Ministry Media and Information Department told Armenpress that the CSTO ministers discussed a number of issues of the agenda, particularly combination of the foreign political activity in UN and other international establishments, European and International security issues as well as UN GA agenda issues.

On the same day Edward Nalbandyan met with the foreign ministers of Russia, Austria, Switzerland, Serbia, Kazakhstan, Australia, Canada and Iran.

During the meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov the sides discussed a number of bilateral, regional and international issues. Nalbandyan presented to Lavrov the steps carried out toward normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations.

At the meeting with Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic, the two sides expressed delight toward the recent activation in bilateral cooperation in different spheres which became more notable after the visit of the Serbian president to Yerevan. Edward Nalbandyan presented to his Serbian counterpart the normalization process of Armenian-Turkish relations and recent developments over Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Vuk Jeremic, expressing gratitude for the Armenia's balanced position in Kosovo issue, presented the process of discussion of the Kosovo issue in the International Justice Court and the expectations of the Serbian side. He reconfirmed invitation to Nalbandyan to visit Belgrade.

During the meeting with newly appointed Kazakh foreign minister Kanat Saudabayev, the Armenian minister congratulated him on the appointment and expressed Armenia's readiness to support Kazakhstan in its next year's chairmanship in OSCE. The two ministers discussed in details the ways of development of cooperation, issues on OSCE activity.

At the meeting with the Austrian Foreign Minister Spindel Eger the sides discussed ways of expanding bilateral cooperation, Armenia-EU relations and opportunities of partnership within its framework.

With the request of Austrian minister, Nalbandyan presented the process and prospects of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations.

An interesting discussion has also been elaborated during the meeting of the Armenian and Australian ministers. They exchanged thoughts over a number of international issues. Stefen Smith underscored the contribution of the Australian Armenian community in different spheres of the country, noting that it may be a peculiar bridge for expansion of cooperation between Armenia and Australia. For continuing the started dialogue, Edward Nalbandyan invited his Australian counterpart to visit Yerevan.

At the meeting with Canadian Foreign Minister Lorence Cannon, the two ministers discussed issues on cooperation between the two countries in international organizations. The sides also referred to the Armenian-Turkish relations.

On the same day Edward Nalbandyan met with Iranian Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki. The two ministers discussed agenda issues of bilateral relations and regional developments. With the request of Iranian foreign minister Nalbandyan presented the current process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations. The Iranian foreign minister informed his Armenian counterpart about the recent developments connected with Iran's nuclear program.

During the meeting with the head of the Swiss Foreign Affairs Federal Department Micheline Calmy-Ray the Armenian foreign minister referred to the issues on expansion of cooperation between the two countries, noting that the newly opened office of Swiss representation in Yerevan may have a serious role in it. The Armenian minister also expressed gratitude for supporting in normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations.



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BUSINESS

9. CONTROL OF ECONOMIC ENTITIES' ACTIVITIES TO BE TIGHTENED IN 2010 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

The 2010 program was discussed at the September 24 sitting of the RA State Commission for the Protection of Economic Competition. The program presents the republican policy on competition, the definition of the competition environment and situation in various branches of the economy, and the economic competition control mechanisms aimed at promoting competition in the current conditions.

The Commission Chairman Ashot Shahnazarian told reporters during a briefing that next year the Commission is going to tighten control of the activities of economic entities and use stricter penalties against entities that commit violations. The Commission also envisages to take a number of measures: to expand the database, reveal, prevent and ban anticompetitive agreements, cases of unfair competition, violations by economic entities with a dominant position in the market, raise the awareness of the population, and improve the legislation on competition. The Commission will continue to actively cooperate with international organizations.

Speaking about the 2009 programs, A. Shahnazarian said he does not consider the results of this year satisfactory because the global crisis has affected their implementation. To encourage work of economic entities, the government has decided to temporarily suspend inspectorial checks at small and medium enterprises.

This year the Commission in cooperation with international bodies has done work on the development of legislative drafts and the improvement of the current methodology. According to A. Shahnazarian, the Commission will soon submit several legislative drafts to the government for discussion.

10. ARMENIA WILL FEEL ECONOMIC EFFECT OF OPENING ARMENIAN-TURKISH BORDER NO SOONER THAN IN 3 YEARS, BAGRAT ASATRIAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

"Armenia will feel the economic effect of opening the Armenian-Turkish border no sooner than in three years. The first effect will be to the benefit of Turkey, whereas Armenia will suffer losses because after the border's opening, Turkish commodities will enter our market more actively and under better conditions," former Chairman of the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) Bagrat Asatrian expressed an opinion at the September 24 press conference.

In his words, the danger is especially great in agriculture where Turkish farm products whose cost price is lower may replace domestic ones. Nevertheless, according to B. Asatrian, this is the only way in the global sense: the borders should open, even at the cost of losses. "It is impossible to develop with a closed border," he said.

11. 11TH PLENARY SITTING OF ARMENIAN-RUSSIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION HELD IN YAROSLAVL [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

The delegation headed by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan paid a working visit to the Russian city of Yaroslavl where the 11th sitting of the Armenian-Russian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation was held.

A tete-a-tete conversation of the Commission Co-Chairmen - Tigran Sargsyan and Russian Minister of Transport Igor Levitin took place prior to the sitting.

The sitting was opened by I. Levitin who considered it symbolic that the sitting takes place Yaroslavl: a few days ago the city hosted an international forum to discuss ways of overcoming the global crisis and establishing new international economic links.

In his speech, T. Sargsyan addressed the bilateral economic cooperation. "The processes taking place in the Armenian economy are similar to those in Russia, and it is no accident. Our economic systems are integrated and correlated. More than a thousand companies with Russian capital operate in Armenia. Our energy system and transport communication are integrated with the Russian economy," he stated. According to him, in the first half of this year the crisis hit hard at the economy, but some economic growth tendencies are noticeable today, which means that the anti-crisis program of the Armenian government has produced results.

Having discussed the issues on the agenda, the participants made decisions on the implementation of the protocol taken at the Commission's 10th sitting held on 20 October 2008, the current state and development prospects of the bilateral trade and economic relations and the legal and



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contractual field, the operation of the enterprises that Armenia has given to Russia against its state debt, as well as decisions on cooperation in energy, transport, cultural and educational spheres. The participants assessed the work on developing cooperation in energy, transport, cultural and educational spheres as efficient.

According to the RA Government Information and PR Department, at the conclusion of the sitting T. Sargsyan and I. Levitin signed the Protocol of the 11th Sitting of the Armenian-Russian Intergovernmental Commission, following which they gave a press conference.

12. SALE AND PURCHASE TRANSACTIONS OF 10 MILLION 660 THOUSAND DOLLARS CARRIED OUT AT NASDAQ OEMEX ARMENIA ON SEPTEMBER 25 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

Sale and purchase transactions of 10 million 660 thousand dollars at the weighted average exchange rate of 385.86 drams per dollar were carried out at Nasdaq Oemex Armenia OJSC on September 25, the press service of the Central Bank of Armenia reported.

13. ARMENIAN FINANCE MINISTER SAYS AT PRESENT THE ARMENIAN ECONOMY IS MANAGEABLE AND PREDICTABLE [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

2009 was a difficult year and the economy totally suffered the impact of the crisis. The Armenian government has worked and continues to work in the crisis conditions which had a notable impact on the policy of the government as well as on the budget drafting. During today's extraordinary session of the Government on the discussion of the draft state budget 2010 Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtian informed that the Budget 2010 has been formed based on the already recorded economic indexes and predictions for the end of the year and the next year.

According to T. Davtian the registered 18.5% GDP fall is intended to be reached to 15% by the end of the year. The Minister said that certain tendencies of stabilization of the economy were noted yet in August, which are intended to be continued and made more vivid at the end of the year.

According to the predictions at the end of 2009 the GDP will reach nearly 3 trillion 116 billion drams for nearly 15% less over the same index in 2008. The volumes of taxes have notably decreased; at the end of the year they will reach 510-530 billion drams instead of the intended 727 billion. Reduction of nearly 200 billion taxes has its negative impact. To cover the gap between the planned expenditures and budget revenues the Government undertakes steps to boost the economy. The Minister assured that the intended expenditures were on the whole implemented.

The budget expenditures intended for the running year will reach 900-910 billion drams instead of the planned 945 billion. They will mainly be implemented through the budget revenues and credit means involved from the international institutions.

The Minister explains suspension of certain expenditures during this year with the intention to make the budget procedures more controllable, with which an intention is also made to balance the reduction of volumes of taxation. Those expenditures have been suspended which do not have a significant impact on the economy.

T. Davtian said that according to the predictions the budget deficit at the end of this year will reach 7%. He reminded that the legislative body has passed a law increasing the upper bar of the budget deficit to 7.5%. The Minister assured that everything is done to preserve the deficit on the intended level.

"2009 is a rather tensed year; we have serious tasks to draw the economy out of this situation. In this condition the Government carries an expansion policy, which was on the whole successful. At present the economy of Armenia is controllable and predictable. The crisis has not ended yet but the tendencies of stabilization of the economic fall are obvious," the Minister said.

14. THE ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVES DRAFT STATE BUDGET 2010 [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

During today's extraordinary session the Government discussed and approved the draft state budget 2010.

Presenting it in general the RA Finance Minister Tigran Davtian noted that based on his personal as well as international experts' assessments next year 1.2-1.3% GDP growth is intended in case of which it will reach 3 trillion 214 billion drams.

On the whole the budget is intended 701.7 billion drams, expenditures – 884.7 billion drams, deficit – 183 billion drams. The budget deficit/GDP correlation will reach 5.69%. Community budgets will reach 82.5 billion drams which will entirely be directed towards the community expenditures.



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T. Davtian stressed that the social, national security, scientific and a number of other expenditures will be preserved.

Next year capital and state management expenditures will be reduced, equipments and transportation means will not be bought for the state administration, the business trip and state official reception expenditures will be reduced twice.

According to the draft budget 2010 the budget deficit is predicted 183 billion drams which will be covered with foreign and inner sources.

During today's extraordinary session the government discussed and approved the state aiming health project 2010 and the list of state aiming health projects to be funded by the state budget; "State program of employment regulation and list of events 2010", "Annual program of protection of rights of children 2010", "Annual program of social protection of handicapped people 2010", "Restoration, protection, reproduction and usage events of ecosystems of Lake Sevan 2010".

"Involvement of scientific and scientific-technical state draft programs in the state budget 2010", "State program of development of physical training and sports 2010", "Program of development of bordering regions 2010" as well as "Restoration of town of Gyumri 2010" have also been approved.

DIASPORA

15. MINISTER OF DIASPORA MEETS WITH DELEGATION OF ARMENIAN ASSOCIATION OF UROLOGY [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian on September 23 received a delegation of the Armenian Association of Urology. The delegation was headed by Prof. Garo Tertzakian, Founding Member of the Association, member of American Urological Association and American College of Surgeons, and Prof. Hovhannes Aghajanian, President of the Association.

The doctors from the Republic of Armenia and the Diaspora said that the 11th forum of the Armenian Association of Urology will be held in Dilijan on September 25-26. About 120 doctors from Armenia and some 80 Diaspora Armenian doctors from the U.S, France, Great Britain, Russia and Georgia are expected to participate in the forum.

According to a report of the Ministry of Diaspora, Ms. Hakobian attached importance to the forum from the viewpoint of the tasks included in the ministry's programs such as the identification of expert potential of the Diaspora, the creation of a database of experts, and the foundation of all-Armenian professional networks.

The interlocutors focused on the necessity to develop university education of doctors in Armenia, the establishment and use of health care standards, and the use of advanced experience at domestic medical institutions.

The guests underlined the need to encourage Armenia-Diaspora dialog on the problems of national importance and to take steps aimed at protecting the Armenian websites against actions of Turkish hackers. In the words of the minister, the problem of information security should be solved by joint efforts of highly qualified experts from Armenia and the Diaspora.

16. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO ASSIST RA MINISTRY OF DIASPORA WITH FAMILIARIZATION WITH ISRAELI EXPERIENCE OF WORK WITH DIASPORA [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

RA Minister of Diaspora Ms. Hranush Hakobian on September 23 received the Israeli Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Armenia Shemi Tzur (residence in Jerusalem). S. Tzur and H. Hakobian discussed issues related to work with the Diaspora, particularly, Israel's experience in this respect. An agreement was reached that experts of the RA Ministry of Diaspora will attend 4-day courses in Israel in April 2010: the UNDP Armenia Office is prepared to finance this program which aims to encourage an exchange of experience and improve the organization of work done with the Diaspora.

Ms. Hakobian thanked the ambassador for his willingness to assist with the indicated program. She said the familiarization with Israeli experience will help enhance the efficiency of the draft program on repatriation prepared by the ministry.



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17. ARMENIAN COMMUNITY IN AJARIA TO BE IN CENTRE OF ATTENTION OF MINISTRY OF DIASPORA [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian received Chairman of the Union of Armenians in Ajaria Grigory Vardanian and Spokesman for the Union Arthur Hovhannisian on September 23. Deputy Minister of Diaspora Stepan Petrosian, the heads of the departments of the ministry were present at the meeting.

The representatives of the Union spoke about the necessity of measures aimed at preserving Armenian identity in Ajaria: retraining the teachers of the school attached to the Armenian Church in Batumi, receiving textbooks and methodological guides, improvement of the educational conditions of Ajarian Armenian teachers in Armenia, and organizing tours of Armenian cultural groups in Ajaria.

Mr. Vardanian said it is envisaged opening a one-day Armenian School attached to Surb Prkich Church in Batumi and to build an Armenian House and turn it into a cultural, educational, social and business center of the local Armenian community. In his words, the opportunities of cooperation between the community and Homeland will grow after construction of Yerevan-Akhalkalak-Batumi motorway. The trip from Yerevan to Batumi by this motorway will take 5.5 hours instead of nearly 10 hours when one travels by the motorway via Tbilisi.

Ms. Hakobian suggested setting out the community's problems in a document, assuring the guests that the Armenian community in Ajaria will remain in the center of attention of the Ministry of Diaspora. In her words, the ministry will provide all possible assistance to the implementation of the community programs.

Approximately 12 thousand Armenians live in the Republic of Ajaria - part of Georgia. The Union of Armenians in Ajaria recently marked the 5th anniversary of the union's foundation.

18. 12TH TELETHON OF "HAYASTAN" ALL ARMENIAN FUND THIS YEAR TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 26 IN LOS ANGELES [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

12th telethon of "Hayastan" all Armenian fund this year will be held November 26 in Los Angeles. During today's press conference the Executive director of the Fund Ara Vardanian said that this year also the donations will contribute to the projects of development of Armenian and Artsakh villages and the greater part of means got from the telethon will be directed towards the reconstruction and development works of Shushi.

According to Ara Vardanian more than 50 million families all over the world will have an opportunity to watch the telethon. The slogan of Telethon 2009 is "Our Shushi".

The executive Director of the Fund informed that a pan-European fund gathering will also be held November 19-22.

"The French local body of the Fund has held a pan-European phone-telethon since 2000. For four days long nearly 600 volunteers from 5 French towns phone our compatriots living in Europe and call on them to participate," A. Vardanian said.

According to him local bodies from Germany, Switzerland and Holland actively take part in the fund gathering.

The Executive Director of the Fund informed that in Moscow a fund-gathering dinner is also intended to be organized in which Armenian businessmen will take part.

ARTS

19. FEMALE ENSEMBLE OF GEGHARD MONASTERY TAKES PART IN STUTTGART INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/26/09]

Under the patronage of Kuratorium-Lorsh cultural organization the female ensemble of Geghard Monastery performed 7 concerts in Germany on September 5-17. And on September 8 the ensemble took part in the Stuttgart International Festival, the organizer of which was Bach International Academy.

According to art director, candidate of artistry Mher Navoyan, the series of the concerts were dedicated to the 140th anniversary of Komitas. According to him, all the beginning speeches of the concerts presented Armenia. Besides, some special brochures were published, where the biographic data of Komitas were presented. "A program brochure was also published which presented not only the repertory of the ensemble, but also the history of the Armenian nation and its sacred music," M. Navoyan said.



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He noted that the local press covered the performances of the ensemble widely and positively, and the radio recorded the concert of the festival, which will be broadcast on November 7. "The reception was at a very high level, we even were a little envious that our culture is understood and accepted more by foreigners than in our Homeland," M. Navoyan said. According to him, the classical music is at a stage of fall in Armenia, the cause of which is the degeneracy of the society's taste, where the TV companies especially have a great role.

M. Navoyan also noted that the ensemble which was founded in 2001 performed in many European countries, particularly, in Australia, Germany, France and took part in many international festivals.

20. ARMENIA TO TAKE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR IN GERMAN FRANKFURT TOWN [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

Armenia will take part in the international book fair to be held October 14-19 in the German Frankfurt town. Head of the publication agency of the Armenian Culture Ministry Eduard Militonian told Armenpress that compared with 2008 this time the books published in Armenia are intended to be presented in a larger pavilion. Not only fiction, science-fiction and children's, but also translated books as well as books on economy, political science and philosophy, albums, encyclopedias will be presented.

Special attention will be paid to publications dedicated to the world famous writer William Saroian. According to Militonian participation in such fairs has a great importance for publishers. They have an opportunity to get acquainted with the news of publication, obtain new partners as well as to propose joint projects.

Each year numerous publishers, writers, translators as well as representatives of prominent libraries from 120 states take part in the Frankfurt book fair. Besides book presentation seminars, roundtables, readings and other cultural events are also held.

According to the tradition each year a state becomes an honorary guest. In 2008 Turkey was the honorary guest, in 2009 China will be.

This is already the 17th time Armenia takes part in this exhibition.

21. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN RECEIVES RUSSIAN RENOWNED ACTOR V. GAFT [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today Russian renowned actor Valentine Gaft.

On September 26 the creative evening of the talented actor took place in the Yerevan Russian dramatic theatre after Stanislavski which had a great success.

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that President Sargsyan said that "it is not accidental because in Armenia people know, love and assess one of the most prominent representatives of Russian culture – Valentine Gaft".

Pointing out to the firm spiritual ties between Armenian and Russian people the Head of the State stressed that the Russian culture and Russian language are greatly respected in Armenia.

Armenian President stressed the importance of preservation of the established cultural links as well as their continuous revision and enhancement to ensure the young generation with an opportunity to be aware of them. In this respect Serzh Sargsyan considered the visit of the renowned actor a great investment in these links.

Valentine Gaft said that this is the first time he is in Armenia, that he is deeply impressed and thinks of next visits. He updated the President about the new intentions of cultural cooperation and stressed that the opportunity of tour of Russian "Sovremennik" theatre to Armenia is being discussed.

22. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ART CRITICS AND ITS ARMENIAN BRANCH TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

International Association of Art Critics together with its Armenian branch "IAAC Armenia" will conduct a three-day conference in Yerevan September 29-30 "Between the Past and Present: Does the Art Criticism have Future Deterritorialized Context".

The chairman of the "IAAC Armenia" Nazareth Karoyan said today at a press conference that about 20 art critics, historians, theorists, curators from Middle East, Central Asia and South Caucasian countries as well as from Turkey, Iran, Russia and Europe will participate in the conference.



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“The goal of the conference is to raise the issues which today exist in art sphere and have become critical. At the discussions during the conference the specialists will try to suggest solutions for finding the way out,” he said.

The discussions will be followed by visits to museums and educational establishments, meetings with local figures. The reports will be open and public, communication language – English, Armenia with synchronic translation. This will be second such like conference in Yerevan.

The National Association of Art Critics has been established in Armenia in 2005 and during its short-term existence has managed to conduct a number of international conferences and events in Yerevan.

SOCIAL

23. YSU IMPLEMENTS STRATEGY OF BECOMING A GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH CENTER [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/26/09]

Yerevan State University has adopted a worked out strategy on of making the university a global scientific-research center. YSU Rector Aram Simonyan said at today's press conference that the university has a great potential for becoming a scientific-research center of international significance, but the latter is connected with a great number of problems and large financial investments.

“The university will need 25 years to become a demanded global scientific-research center, but we are purposeful in our works”, he said adding that in Russia Saint Petersburg and Moscow State Universities are considered to be similar centers.

YSU rector also referred to the university issues singling out especially the lack of financial means. According to A. Simonyan, for coordinating the university expenses they have to set high tuition fees in some faculties. The university's directorate tries not to increase the tuition fees, but some faculties like the ones of chemistry and physics go on “being kept” more “expensive” on the account of the faculties of law, economy, international relations, Romano-Germanic philology, applied mathematics and east studies.

The education quality is in the center of the university directorate as well. “Having suchlike financial means we can say that the education quality is satisfactory on the whole, but it does not mean that we are satisfied with the quality. At the moment we consider our works wholly satisfactory,” he noted.

According to A. Simonyan, the scientific-research works remain on theoretical level in the university, and they are inefficient from the viewpoint of applying them. The university has undertaken works in this direction as well.

Though the university is complemented with young cadres periodically, the professor-lecturer staff goes on remaining comprised of those of “advanced” age.

The tie between other Armenian universities and employers is not properly established as well; especially in the last issue the employer is quite passive in the “purchase” of specialists from the university.

24. THREE-STOREY AUTO-PARK TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN YSU COURT [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

A three-storey auto-park will be constructed in the court of Yerevan State University. YSU Rector Aram Simonyan said at today's meeting with journalists that the park will be intended for 300 cars.

“There are so many cars in the court of the university that even the university employees do not manage to come close to the building in a car”, he said. The university directorate has undertaken the drafting of the project on park construction in order to give solution to the issue.

According to YSU rector, the new auto-park will be chargeable for the parking of the cars of non-university people, and the employees of the university will park their cars for free.

25. MUSEUM OF AREA STUDIES IN LORI-PAMBAK HAVING MORE THAN 34 000 EXHIBITS [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

Museum of area studies of Lori-Pambak has more than 34 000 exhibits. The museum started its activity under the sponsorship of Vanadzor St. Virgin Mary Church. It has been founded by archeologist-ethnographer Yeghia Momjian.

An official from the museum told Armenpress that today it is one of the most important cultural centers in Armenia. Many historical and cultural assets are kept here. Since 2002 the museum operates



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in a granted house building cooperating with the Institute of archeology and ethnography of the National Academy of Science and the "Project discover" museum development project.

The museum exhibits are today spoilt and devalued as a result of house conditions. On the occasion of each holiday the museum organizes thematic exhibitions and announces days of open doors.

26. AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE – ABOUT INCREASE OF THE EDUCATION LEVEL AND WORKING OUT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS" TO BE HELD IN TSACHKADZOR [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

An international conference on "Education for everyone – about the increase of the education level and working out of educational programs" will be held September 29-30 in Tsakhkadzor.

Media relations department of Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that the conference has been organized by the Armenian Education and Science Ministry, the UNESCO office in Moscow and the International Education Bureau in Geneva. Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry and UNICEF Armenian House are the co-organizers of the event.

21 experts from the CIS states (Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, and Middle East) as well as UNESCO and International Education bureau will take part in the conference.

The key objectives of "Education for everyone" regional conference is to discuss and analyze the issues connected with the education quality in the region and the innovation approaches, correspond the increase of the education level and the general approaches towards the inclusive education in the CIS states as well as to work out relevant education methods for pedagogical universities, legislative bodies, and the sphere officials.

27. PUBLIC AWARENESS WORKS IN SYUNIK [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

The Territorial administration department of the Syunik Governor's office has conducted surveys to find out whether the communities of the province have corresponding technical means to make the public aware of the conducted works and made decisions.

According to the surveys all the seven municipalities of the province are ensured with computer engineering, but from 102 rural communities only 39 have computers.

All the municipalities of the province besides Dastakert are ensured with internet link. Only Kapan municipality has website. All the town and 90 rural communities have information posters for public awareness but in majority of them decisions of the council of elders and head of the community are not fixed.

An official from the Governor's office told Armenpress that the process of public awareness is not properly conducted in the town communities as well. No publications of decisions are made in the information banners of the municipality. The local media must also be used for that aim. Five TV companies and 7 newspapers exist in the Syunik province.

To organize the process of public awareness in Syunik properly the heads of communities have been assigned to make a brief release of the decisions and place it in the official website of the province. The town communities have been tasked to create their website and to ensure its service.

The municipality has also set control; each month the heads of communities must in fixed order present information on the works conducted towards the public awareness.

28. "COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY" INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE KICKS OFF [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

"Computer Science and Information Technology 2009" 7th international conference kicked off today in the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. More than 200 participants from USA, Russia, Norway, Georgia, Brazil, Poland, Syria, Czech, Turkey, Japan, China, Iran, Spain, Ukraine, Germany, Canada and France were present at the event.

The deputy chairman of the ANAS, coordinator of the conference Yuri Shukuryan noted that the goal of this conference is to encourage the development of computer science, exchange scientific and IT information among the experts as well as enable an opportunity for cooperation between scholars of Armenia and international centers.

Chairman of the ANAS Radik Martirosyan said that IT has always had a crucial scientific importance. "The development of computer sphere is very important for us as it promotes the solution of important issues of different branches and achievement of new scientific results," he said.



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Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan highly underscored the initiative of the Academy and noted that the topics which will be included in the conference may guide the Armenian government in improving the IT sphere. According to him, soon Armenia will participate in the conference in the Silicone valley as a result of which a document will be signed by which Armenia will be tied to the world IT scientific developments center.

Head of "Synopsis" company and general operation director Chi-Fun-Chan welcomed the organizers and participants of the conference and noted that first of all Armenia values the intellect. "Armenia is very important for "Synopsis" and we do everything so that here the architects be prepared and manage to confront the challenges of the sphere," he said. The head of "Synopsis" expressed assurance that the conference will be held in creative atmosphere and the discussed topics will have a serious contribution to the development of IT.

The conference will last until October 2.

29. THE 3-DAY WORKSHOP OF ARMENIAN STUDIES ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARMENIAN STUDY RESEARCHES KICKED OFF IN ST. ANN'S COLLEGE OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

Armenian Ambassador to United Kingdom Vahe Gabrielyan visited September 25 St. Ann's college of Oxford University, where the 3-day workshop of Armenian studies organized by the International Association of Armenian Study Researches kicked off.

The goal of the Association is to publish a multi-volume scientific work devoted to the spheres of linguistics of Armenian studies, general philology, history, arts, architecture and literature. In the last years the International Association of Armenian Study Researches has organized 5 similar workshops in the world scientific centers, and the one having kicked off in Oxford was the sixth meeting devoted to literature.

Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry's Media and Information Department told Armenpress that in his welcoming speech V. Gabrielyan attached importance to the continuous work of the International Association of Armenian Study Researches – to the investigation of issues on Armenian studies and to making it available for the wide circles of society.

The ambassador expressed gratitude to Professor of Oxford University, specialist of Armenian studies Teo van Lindi, who was the chief organizer of the Oxford meeting.

Specialists of the sphere of Armenian studies Levon Zakiyan, Professor Peter Kow, Justo Traina, Valentina Kalzolar and others have taken part in the workshop.

30. ARMENIAN ATOMIC ELECTRIC STATION STOPPED FOR PLANNED REPAIR BY OCTOBER 21 [ARMENPRESS, 09/28/09]

Armenian atomic electric station has been stopped for the planned renovation. The pause started on September 5 and will last for 46 days, by October 21.

Director of Armenian atomic electric station Gagik Melkonian told Armenpress that this is the first stop in 2009. Such stops are regularly conducted for refueling, repairing works as well as increasing the security level.

G. Melkonian stressed that like the previous year this year also passing to the planned repairing of the atomic station will not be reflected on the energy supply of Armenia as Armenia has wide opportunities of electricity production.

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