



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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### AGBU NEWS

#### **1. Bako Sahakyan conducts meetings in Lebanon [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan met August 23 in Beirut with the representatives of the governing body of the Armenian General Benevolent Union’s (AGBU) Lebanon branch.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that issues related to cooperation between organizations and Artsakh as well as to Artsakh’s domestic and foreign policy were discussed during the meeting. The President noted that the AGBU has had a considerable input in the development of Artsakh, simultaneously underlining the necessity of transferring the cooperation into a qualitatively new level with special emphasis on the sphere of education, further widening contacts between youth in Artsakh and the Diaspora.

On the same day President Sahakyan met members of the governing body of the Lebanese Armenian Relief Cross organization. At the beginning Bako Sahakyan congratulated the organization on the 80th anniversary of their foundation and noted that the LARC has had a great contribution both to the preservation of the Armenian national identity in Lebanon and assisting the Motherland. The President noted that despite close cooperation between Artsakh and the Armenian Relief Society, whose branch is LARC, Artsakh is very much interested in establishing direct contacts with the Lebanese Armenian Relief



Cross, which would add a new impetus to further widening and deepening relations between Armenian community of Lebanon and Artsakh.

Adviser to the President of the Artsakh Republic Armen Isagoulov, minister of education and science Vladik Khachatryan, head of the Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President David Babayan, permanent representative of the Artsakh Republic in Lebanon Karo Kebabjyan, as well as ambassador of the Republic of Armenia in Lebanon Ashot Kochartan partook at the meetings.

## **2. Champions of First Pan-Armenian Chess Olympiad announced [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

The team of the CIS states scored 21 points and achieved the title of champion of the first Pan-Armenian Chess Olympiad. The chess players of Yerevan scored 21 points, too, but yield to the opponent with additional criteria and achieved the second place. The European team scored 19 points and came third. The Armenian team scored 19 points, too, and achieved the fourth place.

The winning team was granted 3000 USD, and the teams, which achieved the 2nd and third places, were awarded 2400 and 2000 USD, respectively. In the tournament of male chess players, 3 players scored 6.5 points. Poghos Nahapetyan from Russia became champion with additional criteria. Tigran Petrosyan from the team of Yerevan achieved the second place. Grigor Sevak Mekhitarayan from Brazil came third. The winner of the tournament was awarded 2000 USD, and the vice-champion – 1500 USD. The prize for the third place was 1200 USD.

In the tournament of female chess players, 3 players scored 5 points. Diana Harutyunova from the Ukraine achieved the first place, Tatev Abrahamyan from the US achieved the second place, Siranush Andreasyan from Armenia came third. The prize for the first place was 800 USD, for the second place – 500 USD, the third place – 200 USD.

Smbat Lputyan, director of RA Academy of Chess, first deputy chairman of RA Chess Federation, and RA Diaspora deputy Minister Stepan Petrosyan awarded the medals and certificates of RA Chess Federation and RA Diaspora Ministry to the champions and prize-winners of the tournament.

The First Pan-Armenian Chess Olympiad is sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

## **POLITICS**

### **3. Armenian and Russian Presidents participate at the ceremony of opening of the “Hill of Honor” memorial complex [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev were present today at the ceremony of opening of the “Hill of Honor” memorial complex symbolizing Armenian-Russian friendship.

Presidential press office told Armenpress that the Armenian president pointed out in his speech the historic significance of the Russian army for the Armenian people, noting that in this site brutal Russian-Turkish wars were held and hundreds of Russian soldiers and officers found their last harbor at the “Hill of Honor”. The Armenian president said the restoration of the “Hill of Honor” is another symbol of friendship between the Armenian and Russian peoples.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev also came forth with a speech. The presidents of the two countries put flowers at the monument commemorating Russian officers and planted a silver tree in the territory of the memorial.

Presidents Sargsyan and Medvedev returned from Gyumri to Yerevan to take part at the unofficial summit of the heads of the CSTO countries.

### **4. Alexander Margarov: Armenia and Russia try to strengthen the basis of more lasting relations [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

The state visit of the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to Armenia has several components. “Among the main of them we can single out the issues concerning the political, military, economic and historical-cultural fields, which create today’s atmosphere of strategic partnership,” Alexander Margarov, political analyst, told Armenpress, adding that the state visit appears to be of the highest class and shows the level of relations between the two countries.

Commenting on extension of the term of deployment of the Russian military base in Armenia, Mr Margarov said that there are two main circumstances here; the first is that the two states do not expect



abrupt changes of situation in the near future and in these conditions the extension of the term is expression of friendly relations and confirmation of medium-term programs, and the second circumstance is that the parties try to strengthen the basis of more lasting relations.

“The extension of the term in the current regional situation is a sign for the countries which wish to destabilize the situation,” Mr. Margarov said, adding that it is one more sign in the region that this important military base will stay in its place for quite a long time.

## **5. Turkish President meets with Hrant Dink’s brother [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

The family of Hrant Dink, Armenian editor-in-chief of “Akos” newspaper killed by Turkish nationalists January 19, 2007, has evoked 2 forensic cases in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The Turkish side sent a letter on behalf of the Turkish Foreign Affairs Ministry to the ECHR, where the Turkish party has based its defense on ECHR decision connected with a way of thinking typical of Nazi and compared Dink with “neo-Nazi”.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmed Davutoglu and Justice Ministry Sadullah Ergin stated August 20 that they are not familiar with the content of that official letter. Turkish President Abdullah Gul met yesterday in the evening in “Tarabja” palace, Istanbul with Hrant Dink’s brother – Khosrov Dink, to discuss the way-out from the created situation, the Turkish mass media reported, according to Armenpress.

Particularly, Turkish “Milliyet” reported that after the statements of Davutoglu and Ergin, Dink’s family made understand that the happened can be discussed with the authorities, if the latter annuls the accusation for offending the Turkish identity by the 301st article of the Turkish criminal code. Besides that, in the second court case Dink’s family insists that the Turkish security bodies had been informed beforehand about the attempted murder against Dink and did not undertake preventive measures.

“The government seems to be decisive in cleaning that ungraceful defense attempt at the ECHR. No matter how much they insist that it is only a letter-defense written by an official, it is official and way-out must be found.

That is why the two ministries work at such 2 variants, which will allow to close Hrant Dink’s case at the ECHR by means of giving a compensation to the family or apologizing. “It is not known yet whether Dink’s family will admit one of those proposals of the Turkish government or will deny”, “Milliyet” wrote, noting that the meeting between Khosrov Dink and Abdullah Gul lasted 1 hour and was held behind closed doors. After the meeting Khosrov Dink told journalists that they spoke of “a very important and pitiful theme”.

The newspaper reported that during the conversation with Khosrov Dink Gul, noting that Dink was killed as a result of not undertaking relevant security measures, said, “I have invited you here for listening to you; I want to know all the details connected with the case”.

## **6. ECHR condemns Turkey for the case of Hrant Dink; the verdict will be publicized at the beginning of September [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has condemned Turkey for accusing Hrant Dink, Armenian editor-in-chief of “Akos” newspaper killed by Turkish nationalists January 19, 2007, by the 301st article of the Turkish criminal code for not providing Dink’s defense despite the knowledge on threats Dink got and for inefficient conduction of the judicial act connected with Dink’s murder. The ECHR will publicize the verdict at the beginning of September, Turkish “Milliyet” newspaper reports, according to Armenpress.

The Turkish press stated 2 days ago that the Turkish Foreign Affairs Ministry, by the signature of Minister Ahmed Davutoghlu, had sent a disgraceful letter to the court, in which compared Hrant Dink with a “Nazi”, and the fact that the police did not defend him linked with Dink’s not wanting it.

By the information the newspaper has, the 2nd administration of the ECHR has accused Turkey for violation of the 2nd and 10th articles on “Violation Living Right” and “Violation of Speech Freedom”.

Condemning on “Violation of Living Right” is conditioned by the fact that the police and state services were informed that a death attempt was being prepared and did not undertake preventive measures.

The reason for condemning Turkey by “Violation of Speech Freedom” article is the publication of Hrant Dink’s article about first woman pilot in Turkey Sabiha Gyokchen of being of Armenian descent, and was accused for “offending” Turkish by 301st article.



“For getting rid of the defensive scandal Turkey has nothing to do than not to appeal against the convict at all or to present a limited appeal. In case of appeal the final decision is adopted by the supreme administration of the ECHR. If there is no appeal, the decision adopted by the second administration of the ECHR will remain in “Milliyet” reported.

## **7. Armenian and Russian political scientists consider visit of RF President positive and efficient [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

The high-level Armenian-Russian relations are described with the strategic partnership, according to Hermine Naghdalyan, deputy of RA NA's ARP faction. She said at today's Yerevan-Moscow video bridge that the official visit of President of Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev strengthened the partner relations between the two states. She says the prolonging of the agreement on locating Russian military bases in Armenia will promote rise in the level of security in the South Caucasus.

‘The visit of the Russian President will promote the start of military cooperation and new investment projects. The visit will have serious consequences for the whole region.

According to Vladimir Jarikhin, deputy director of the Institute of CIS States, the visit of the Russian President is quite important. He says the fact that it was the first official visit of Dmitry Medvedev is quite significant. As to the results! of the visit, Vladimir Jarikhin mentioned about the prolonging of the agreement on presence of Russian military bases in Armenia. He added that the change is important both for Russia and Armenia from the aspect of ensuring peace in the South Caucasus.

At the request of the Russian side Sergey Minasyan, head of the political research department of the Caucasus Institute, commented on his statement, made earlier, according to which the prolonging of the agreement on presence of Russian military bases in Arm is a political address to Azerbaijan. He mentioned that it gives Armenia an opportunity to rely on Russia in case of starting military activities with Azerbaijan. He also reminded about the Russian President's statement, according to which Russia emphasizes the ensuring of peace in the region and Russia is the warrant of the responsibilities, assumed towards Armenia.

According to Vladimir Zakharov, director of the Institute of Political and Social Researches of Black Sea-Caspian region, the Russian military bases will not partake in possible Armenian-Azerbaijani military activities; however the existence of the bases will give Armenia an opportunity to feel protected.

‘During the visit the Russian President stressed once again the peaceful solution of the NK issue; it was an official address to Azerbaijan, which always makes warlike statements. All the issues should be solved in a peaceful way,’ the political scientist said.

Sergey Minasyan says both in Moscow and Yerevan people understand that in case of breaking of military activities Russia cannot move off, but will be involved,’ the political scientist said.

## **8. Frangus Frangoulis and his delegation visit Tsitsernakaberd Memorial [Armenpress, 08/24/10]**

The head of the Chief Headquarter of the Land Troops of Greece, General-Lieutenant Frangus Frangoulis, who has paid a two-day working visit to Armenia, visited today Tsitsernakaberd Memorial to pay tribute and a put a wreath at the memorial dedicated to the victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide committed in the Ottoman Turkey. Afterwards the delegation visited the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute where accompanied by deputy director Suren Manukyan got acquainted with the presented samples. Frangus Frangoulis also put a note in the Commemoration Book.

At the end of the visit to Tsitsernakaberd he watered the tree planted by the President of Cyprus Carlos Papulias in the Memory Alley.

## **DIASPORA**

### **9. Bako Sahakyan visits central committee of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan visited central committee of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East located in the city of Beirut and met with its representatives at the head of the central committee's chairman Soghomon Kilaghbyan.

Bako Sahakyan rated high the role of the church in providing national education and maintaining Armenian national identity in the Diaspora pointing out Haykazyan University, which is one of the leading Armenian higher educational establishments, as the best example of that.



Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that the NKR president The Head of the State expressed his gratitude to the Armenian Evangelical Church for carrying out different projects in Artsakh expressing hope that the circle of the projects would be enlarged.

On 21 and 22 August President Saha! kyan in the village of Ainjar partook at the opening and closing ceremonies of solemn events dedicated to the 95th anniversary of heroic battle in Mousa Ler and 70th anniversary of Ainjar and delivered there a speech.

Adviser to the President of the Artsakh Republic Armen Isagoulov, minister of education and science Vladik Khachatryan, head of the Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President David Babayan, permanent representative of the Artsakh Republic in Lebanon Karo Kebabjyan accompanied the Head of the State. Minister of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia Hranoush Hakobyan and ambassador of the Republic of Armenia in Lebanon Ashot Kochartan partook at the events too.

## **10. Bako Sahakyan's visit to Lebanon continues [Armenpress, 08/24/10]**

On 23 August President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan visited Patriarchate of the Armenian Catholic Church located in Beirut where he met Armenian Catholic Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX, supreme hierarchs of church and representatives of the Armenian community.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that issues related to Motherland-Diaspora ties as well as domestic and foreign policy were discussed during the meeting.

Bako Sahakyan called important steady strengthening the ties between various segments of the Diaspora, underlining that in this process making more frequent periodical visits is of special significance. Bako Sahakyan rated high the contribution of the Armenian Catholic Church in preserving Armenian cultural and educational centers in the Diaspora, particularly in Lebanon. The interlocutors touched upon the Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict settlement process too.

Adviser to the President of the Artsakh Republic Armen Isagoulov, minister of education and science Vladik Khachatryan, head of the Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President David Babayan, permanent representative of the Artsakh Republic in the Middle East Karo Kebabjyan, as well as ambassador of the Republic of Armenia in Lebanon Ashot Kocharyan partook at the meeting.

On the same day the NKR president gave a press-conference for a number of leading Lebanese mass media. Issues related to socioeconomic development of the Artsakh Republic, Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict settlement process and Artsakh-Diaspora ties were touched upon during the press-conference.

On 24 August President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan met representatives of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund's Lebanese branch headed by its chairman Sargis Armenyan.

Issues related to socioeconomic development of the Artsakh Republic and realization of various projects in the country were discussed during the meeting.

Bako Sahakyan rated high the contribution of the fund in the development of Artsakh noting that he anticipated further activation of the Lebanese Armenian community in this process.

Adviser to the President of the Artsakh Republic Armen Isagoulov, minister of education and science Vladik Khachatryan, head of the Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President David Babayan, permanent representative of the Artsakh Republic in the Middle East Karo Kebabjyan partook at the meeting.

## **11. 324 Diaspora-Armenian students to study in Armenia in 2010-2011 academic year [Armenpress, 08/24/10]**

The results of the applications of Diaspora applicants for studying in Armenia have been summed up. Within the 2010-2011 academic year this every year program, which is implemented by the Armenian Education and Science Ministry, will host 324 Diaspora students.

Head of the Diaspora Ties Department of the Armenian Education and Science Ministry Nune Vardanyan told Armenpress that the most applications have been received from Georgia – 220, and in general, the applications are from Russia, Iran, Syria, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Abkhazia, Israel, Holland, USA, Lebanon, Turkey, Lithuania, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Cyprus and Belarus.

This year the number of the places provided within the frameworks of the state order is 70, they are intended for the students of bachelor's degree. Mrs. Vardanyan said that activeness of people wishing



to study at the faculties of international relations and law at the Yerevan State University is registered this year.

Mrs. Vardanyan said that the part of Diaspora-Armenian applicants has started the education in Armenia, and then they have appeared outside the borders of the Republic for different reasons. "Now a certain group of people with the same destiny has expressed wish to continue the education in Armenia," she said.

## ARTS

### **12. Nazaret Karoyan: 'The Armenian culture is marked on the cultural map of Europe' [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

At today's roundtable discussion on art exchanges between Europe and Caucasus a number of art curators and art historians from Armenia and abroad discussed the issue of art exchanges of the 1990s and nowadays.

Nazaret Karoyan, art critic, chairman of the Art Critics Association, said that it was made clear due to the discussions that now exchanges are established on the base of long-term research issues. He added that art exchanges and relations did not exist between establishments in the 90s, but those relations are being strengthened now between two partner establishments or persons.

'Now the exchanges are equal. In the past we were selected, but now the Armenian establishments have become a subject in those relations,' Nazaret Karoyan said. He added that the above mentioned fact brings to marking the Armenian culture on the cultural map of Europe.

A special group of curators and art historians from the states, which organized the trans-Caucasian festival – Germany, Slovenia, Poland and Austria –, partook in the discussion as well.

### **13. Personal exhibition of Samvel Aslanyan opens in Yerevan [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

The opening ceremony of the personal exhibition of Samvel Aslanyan, Belgium-based Armenian painter, took place today in assistance with the Central Library after Avetik Isahakyan and the Armenian Fund for Culture of Yerevan Municipality. The exhibition will close August 27. Samvel Aslanyan said in an interview with Armenpress that 35 drawings are presented at the exhibition.

The painter says he likes painting very much and that the main part of his works is painted on canvas. 'I desired to present them all in my homeland, but the means for transportation were not enough,' he said. As to the reception by Armenian and European art lovers, Samvel Aslanyan said his compatriots greet his canvases more warmly.

'The Armenian spectator understands me better,' he mentioned. Samvel Aslanyan was born in Yerevan in 1954. His first personal exhibition opened 1991 at RA Journalists Union. He studied 2002-2006 at Brussels Academy of Fine Arts, department of drawing. He had a number of personal and group exhibitions in Belgian cities and in Paris.

### **14. Classes on animation uncovering with journalists [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

A class will be organized September 9 in Yerevan for journalists within the frameworks of "Reanimania 2010" international animation film festival. Public Relations and Marketing Manager Hrachuhi Barseghyan told Armenpress that the classes will be conducted by Johannes Woltersk from Germany. They will be conducted in English and German, with the support of a translator as well.

"Reanimania" is a unique festival in the region and journalists need classes for uncovering unique spheres," H. Barseghyan said, noting that there is no wide market of animation in Armenia and cultural journalists are not well prepared to be able to present the animation comprehensively. The necessary information for participation must be sent to [prmarketing@reanimania.com](mailto:prmarketing@reanimania.com) address not later than September 4, 2010. Journalists of a limited number can participate in the class.

J. Woltersk has corresponded with German newspapers and film magazines. He has prepared articles and interviews with the world animation net, animation magazine and world graphic world. J. Woltersk is considered to be professional in the sphere of animation journalism.

"Reanimania" film festival is organized for the second time. It has a mission of giving new birth to the Armenian animation art, as well as is called to take the Armenian contemporary animation to the international area.



**15. Armenia to take part in 4th international biennale of fine arts in Beijing [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

Member of the Armenian Painters' Union Vahram Harutyunyan will take part from September 20 to October 10 in the 4th international biennale of fine arts. The painter will present the canvas of "Queen".

"It is great honor to participate in suchlike contests, as one presents there the whole state, Artists always try to highly honor the country," Vahram Harutyunyan told Armenpress.

He participated in this contest also in 2008, and this time he has new expectations from it. According to the initial information, about 300 artists from 80 countries will participate in the contest. Before leaving the artist has planned to publish the album of his works.

The Armenian Culture Ministry will provide the travel expenses, and the inviting party – the expenses of accommodation and of the transportation of the canvas.

**16. All-Armenian exhibition of children works on the theme of "In the World of Fairytales" opened [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

The exhibition of the works presented at the all-Armenian contest-festival of children paintings on the theme of "In the World of Fairytales" officially opened today in the Aesthetic National Center.

Director of the gallery Levon Igityan noted that the goal of the festival is to contribute to the creative activity of children in Diaspora, to reveal more talented children, as well as to encourage knowledge on Armenian children literature and raise interest in painting. "For the first time in our new history we have made an attempt to involve in this exhibition as many children as possible. We must unite our creative potential, as no child in Armenia is born without talent; it is proved by the history," he said.

Director of the National Education Institute of the Armenian Education and Science Ministry Norayr Ghukasyan noted that 6-12 year old about 1000 pupils from Armenia, Artsakh, USA, Argentina, Bulgaria, Belarusia, Brazilia, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Spain, Lebanon, Kazakhstan, Great Britain, Netherlands, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Switzerland, Russia, Syria, Georgia, Kuwait and France have participated in the contest-festival dedicated to Armenian fairytales.

The contest is conducted in 2 rounds. About 1000 paintings from 26 countries were presented at the first round by electronic version. The best 180 works have been selected by a professional commission. In the second round the participants will present the originals of their works, the winners of which will be awarded. The results will be announced September 21, 2010.

"Armentel" CJSC assists in organization of the contest-festival.

**17. Exhibition dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the outstanding Armenian artist Vardges Surenyants to open at the Armenia's National Gallery [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

Exhibition dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the outstanding Armenian artist Vardges Surenyants will open at the Armenia's National Gallery where all his canvases will be presented. Director of the gallery Paravon Mirzoyan told Armenpress that besides the exhibition an album dedicated to Surenyants will be published.

Mr Mirzoyan said that this year there is no lack of anniversary exhibitions at the gallery: in early August exhibition of Harutyun Kalents opened, and canvases of Vagharshak Elibekyan were exhibited.

Vardges Surenyants is considered the founder of the national historic painting in the history of the Armenian fine art. He was born in 1860 in Akhaltskha, in the family of a clergyman.

**18. A fairytale library in Hovhannes Tumanyan Museum [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

A fairytale library will be founded in 2010 in Hovhannes Tumanyan Museum, Yerevan. Director of the museum Narine Tukhikyan told Armenpress that agreements will be reached with the embassies of all the countries in Armenia in the direction of obtaining books for that library. Many books have already been received from Ireland and Syria.

"This library must become a gathering place for all the fairytale writers and lovers of the world," N. Tukhikyan said adding that a museum is also planned to establish in the museum – a museum inside a museum.

N. Tukhikyan expressed wish to concentrate and coordinate in the museum the works of the researchers and scientists engaged in studies of fairytales, becoming a link for scientists and establishments working in Armenia, as well as to get to the international area, becoming a partner of world structures engaged in this sphere.



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“We are committed to organize annual scientific conferences, workshops, exhibitions, festivals, illustration contests, to study child books of Tumanyan personal library, to republish them in some cases, to organize translations, etc,” N. Tukhikyan said.

The museum is going to publish a magazine on study of fairytales. “From the inter-cultural point of view it will be an unprecedented initiative,” N. Tukhikyan said.

## **19. “High Fest” international festival to be conducted October 1-8 [Armenpress, 08/24/10]**

The 8th international festival of performing art “High Fest” will be conducted this year October 1-8. Press officer of the festival Lilit Aslanyan told Armenpress that applications from 100 theatrical groups have already been received but only 50 authoritative theatrical groups up from 35 countries will participate in the event.

“Like every year, this time too honorable guests, heads of well-known festivals, producers will be present at the festival,” she said, adding that within the framework of the festival program of Iranian performances will be carried out. Mrs Aslanyan noted that the main goal of the festival is to present world culture and promote the development of theatrical art as well as create contacts between the Armenian and foreign theatrical figures.

## **RELIGION**

### **20. Hakob Chakryan, “We may be presented at the divine liturgy of Aghtamar St. Khach Church, but not participate in the Turkish show” [Armenpress, 08/24/10]**

We may participate in the divine liturgy to be held September 19 in St. Khach Church, Aghtamar, closed in 1915 as a result of the Armenian Genocide, simultaneously showing that the Armenian party is not encouraged by that, specialist of Turkish studies, political analyst Hakob Chakryan said today at a meeting with journalists, stressing that it is a very delicate issue to participate or not in that ceremony.

“Turkey has announced to the whole world that it has organized an event and invited the Armenian party. That issue will be speculated both in case of participation and non-participation. We must understand in which case the issue will be more speculated, and make our decision according to it,” Mr. Chakryan said.

According to the specialist of Turkish studies, every state thinks about its own profits while organizing some event; the same is with Turkey, and there is nothing strange, we can go and be! presented, but be self-restrained, and not become a participant of a Turkish show. “We must show to the Turkish party that we are not encouraged and must express what kind of flaws we see. What does mean to make St. Khach a church by one day in a year and to perform a holy liturgy?” Mr. Chakryan said.

No representative from the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin partook in the opening ceremony of Aghtamar St Khach Church, as the opening of the museum-turned church was made without a prayer, and in the September 19 liturgy 2 representatives from the Mother See will participate.

## **SOCIAL**

### **21. Professors of the French University of Armenia unemployed [Aravot, 08/24/10]**

29 professors have been fired from the French University of Armenia, which makes 1/3 of the whole staff. Among the fired professors are the deans of the management and law departments. As News.am reported, the lecturers have sent letters to Arthur Baghdasaryan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the French University of Armenia, and Serge Smessow, Ambassador of France to Armenia. The letter says, “...the mass firings at the university are not grounded. The activities of the rector violate the Constitution, civil and labor codes”. The fired professors have applied to the Arabkir and Kanaker-Zeytun district court demanding reinstatement in their positions and financial compensation from the rector for their forced unemployment. The French University will send its comments in the near future.

### **22. Winners of “Kangaroo” returned from international camp [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

The winners of “Kangaroo 2010” have returned from Bulgaria. Edgar Minasyan and Abraham Grigoryan enjoyed an active rest in the international camp with their contemporaries from Bulgaria, France, Rumania, Russia and Georgia for 8 days by presenting Armenia there.



An official from “Ayb” educational foundation told Armenpress that the children actively partook in different events and contests organized in the camp, as well as visited interesting and picturesque sites.

According to the children, in the camp they got acquainted with representatives of different cultures, had an opportunity to be in interesting sites and to broaden their mind.

The pass of the international summer camp was given by “Ayb” foundation – organizer of the contest, and the plane tickets were provided by general partner of “Kangaroo 2010” “VTB-Armenia” bank.

## **23. Festive events dedicated to the 19th anniversary of declaration of independence of the NKR [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

On the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic a number of festive events will be conducted in Stepanakert. Head of the NKR governmental press service told Armenpress that the events will launch from September 1 and according to the tradition the first lesson in the educational establishments will be devoted to the Declaration of Artsakh's Independence. The lessons will be held by the NKR parliamentarians and government representatives.

On the day of the Declaration of Independence – September 2 – in the streets of Stepanakert a military march will take place. Headed by the NKR President Bakor Sahakyan the top officials of the republic will visit Stepanakert town memorial and put flowers on the tomb of the diminished freedom fighters and first president of the NKR Supreme Council Arthur Mkrtychyan.

Among the festive events ceremonial unveiling of the N. Stepanyan monument as well as renovated central park of Stepanakert will take place. Exhibition-sale of the works of the NKR artists is also to be held.

The festivities will be wrapped up at Stepa Shahumyan stadium with a concert and fireworks.

The declaration of the independence of Karabakh will be marked in other towns of Artsakh as well.

## **24. “Baze 2010” youth gathering opens in Tsakhkadzor [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

“Baze 2010” youth gathering opened today in Tsakhkadzor. Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Education and Science Minister Armen Ashotyan, public figures, and youth organizations were present at the opening of the event.

The youth gathering launched with the anthem of Armenia, after which Tigran Sargsyan welcomed the participants and guests.

“This year is a peculiar year connected with the number of youth events and it inspires joy. The Armenian government pursues efforts to promote the youth movement. I think that “Baze” youth gatherings are called to unite, develop new programs and apply new culture,” Tigran Sargsyan said.

The youth gathering will be held August 23-28 at the resort house of Tsakhkadzor. About 300 young people of 18-30 years old from Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhq are participating in the event. The participants will be divided into three fronts – red, blue and orange – the colors symbolizing the colors of Armenia's state flag. The program of participants is very full.

Armen Ashotyan also welcomed the participants wishing them success. “The Education and Science Ministry could not have stayed aside from today's events and not because that from 2002 I had honor to stand here where you are standing, to live the days you are living, acquire friends, experience but because the participants of today's gathering are mainly students,” Ashotyan said.

The minister gifted “Baze” leadership the monument of white hawk the work of Levon Tokmajyan.

## **25. Tigran Sargsyan says Armenia to have bright future if today's hero is an educated and intellectual youth [Armenpress, 08/23/10]**

RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan partook today in the opening ceremony of ‘Baze 2010’ youth gathering, organized in Tsakhkadzor by the Armenian Youth Foundation. More than 280 young people from Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk were invited to the youth gathering. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan greeted the participants of the youth gathering and mentioned that the year was full of pan-Armenian youth events.

The Governmental press service told Armenpress that the Prime Minister assured the participants that the RA Government will do its best to promote the youth movement in Armenia. According to the Prime Minister, the youth gatherings of ‘Baze’ may become the best tool for uniting the youth, designing



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joint projects and investing a new culture. Tigran Sargsyan congratulated the participants on the 20th anniversary of the RA Declaration of Independence.

'The day is significant, as the Armenian nation celebrates the day of adoption of the Independence Declaration. Most of you were born in that period, when we were forming the bases of the Republic of Armenia. The adoption of the Declaration of Independence had a historical significance for our nation, as the principles, involved in the Declaration, became bases for the creation of the Republic of Armenia via laws and normative acts. So I want to congratulate all of us on the adoption of the Declaration of Independence,' the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan also underscored the importance of high-quality education for the youth. 'It is not a secret that in the modern world only those nations get a competitive advantage, which attach a great importance to education and knowledge. The modern world is first of all based on the intellectual competition, and not a competition of arms and armaments. We will have a bright future if the hero of today is the educated and intellectual young.

I think we have a lot of things to do in this direction. Prime Minister donated blood voluntarily within the framework of the 'Propaganda of Voluntarily, Unpaid Blood Donation' initiative of the Armenian Youth Foundation and '25 Club' international organization.

## **26. Schools of Stepanakert, Martuni and Hadrut to be involved in [www.Schoolinfo.am](http://www.Schoolinfo.am) informative and educational program [Armenpress, 08/24/10]**

It is already a year that the informative and educational program of [www.School-info.am](http://www.School-info.am) has been inserted in Artsakh. This program enables parents to be informed about the marks, educational progress of their children without going to school. Last year the program was operated only in 2 schools, and registered a great success.

Director General of [www.School-info.am](http://www.School-info.am) program Mher Poghosyan told Armenpress that the program is implemented collaboratively with the NKR Education and Science Ministry. All the schools of Stepanakert and the schools of Martuni and Hadrut will be involved in the program from September 1.

Mr. Poghosyan also noted that for making use of the program the subscriber must obtain an individual code of 6500 Drams.

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