



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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AGBU NEWS

1. **AGBU Armenian Virtual College presented in St. Petersburg [AGBU Armenian Representation, 09/28/10]**

On September 19, in the Events Hall of the Armenian Apostolic Church's St. Petersburg residence, Dr. Yervant Zorian, member of the AGBU Central Board of Directors and Founding-Chairman of the AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC), met with local Armenian youth, students, members of "Nor Serund" (New Generation) Armenian youth organization and representatives of the Armenian community of St. Petersburg to present AGBU's activities, educational and youth programs, particularly the Union's newest learning institute - the Armenian Virtual College (AVC). The meeting was organized by "Nor Serund" youth organization and an opening speech was made by Sedrak Kalashyan, representative of "Nor Serund".

Officially opened in June 2009, the Armenian Virtual College occupies a unique place among the various educational and youth programs carried out by the AGBU and the Armenian Apostolic Church for more than 100 years in different Armenian communities worldwide.

In September 2009, the AVC was presented to the Armenian community of Moscow and was warmly welcomed by Bishop Yezras Nersissian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church's Diocese of Nor Nakhijevan and Russia, who expressed eagerness to support AGBU's activities in Russia.

During the presentation in St. Petersburg, Dr. Zorian mentioned that the Armenian community of Russia is in a leading position in terms of registered AVC students compared with other Armenian communities, and that he wouldn't be surprised if that number doubled in the near future. Nevertheless, he mentioned that not all the Armenian communities are lucky enough to have Armenian Sunday schools, which further emphasizes the importance of AVC.

The local Armenian community was greatly interested in the AGBU projects, which will certainly influence the life of the community with a rich educational and cultural history. At the end of the meeting Dr. Zorian answered all the questions raised by those present. Throughout the whole presentation Dr. Zorian was assisted by Sedrak Kalashyan and community activist Vahan Babakhanian as translators.

Closing remarks were made by the Spiritual Leader of the Armenian community of Saint Petersburg Father Nshan Petrosyan. The meeting was also attended by Karen Mkrtychyan, Head of the local Armenian community.



During his stay in Saint Petersburg Dr. Zorian got acquainted with the activities of the local Armenian community, visited the local Armenian Sunday school and attended a Holy Liturgy at the Armenian Church of Saint Petersburg.

POLITICS

2. Edward Sharmazanov: 'The geopolitical analyses of Armenian National Congress are not connected with the reality' [Armenpress, 09/27/10]

The geopolitical analyses of the Armenian National Congress are not connected with the reality, according to Edward Sharmazanov, secretary of RA NA Armenian Republican Party. He said today in an interview with Armenpress that the parallels with the 1920s, Levon-Ter Petrosyan drew during the ANC's recent meeting, were not proper. Edward Sharmazanov says the First Republic of Armenia collapsed 1920 because of joint activities of the region's two superpowers— Bolshevik Russia and Kemalist Turkey.

He added that the situation has changed now, as Russia, one of the superpowers of the region, cooperates with the Republic of Armenia very seriously, and this reflects on the West positively. As to ANC leader's statement, according to which the regulation of the NK issue is currently being held within the framework of Ankara-Baku-Moscow triangle, Edward Sharmazanov said that two directions can be defined – Ankara-Baku and Yerevan-OSCE Minsk group, in which Russia plays a great role. 'We may say that Russia and Turkey cooperate with each other, but we should remember that these two countries have had 12 wars since the 18th century. In our region these states remain rivals,' the NA deputy said. He says the fact that Russia and Turkey are situated in different security zones should be taken into account.

'Extraordinary elections are held in a country, in case it exercises political crisis; Armenia is not exercising such a crisis now,' Edward Sharmazanov said, commenting on ANC's statement on necessity of holding extraordinary elections. Edward Sharmazanov says a number of representatives of the opposition do not manage to reach a consensus in their demands. 'Mr. Levon-Ter Petrosyan was Armenia's president and he should have known that it is not proper to speak the language of ultimatums to the authorities,' the NA deputy noted, stressing that in this case the possibility of dialogue is being excluded.

3. Richard Kirakosyan says Azerbaijan to suffer defeat in case of starting war [Armenpress, 09/28/10]

Undeclared war between Azerbaijan and Armenia is possible in the process of regulation of the Nagorno Karabakh issue, according to Richard Kirakosyan, head of the Armenian Center for National and International Studies. He said at today's meeting with journalists that military conflicts may transform into war action.

He says Azerbaijan will suffer defeat in case of starting war. "I am sure Armenia will make counterattack and withstand. Actually, Armenia is against war, and in this case pressure is exerted on Azerbaijan by both the international community and OSCE Minsk group," the analyst stated. According Richard Kirakosyan, it is important that the OSCE Minsk group is against solving the NK issue through war.

4. Artak Shakaryan says Turkey to place cross on Surb Khach at the threshold of April 24 [Armenpress, 09/28/10]

Turkey will place the cross of Surb Khach (Holy Cross) Church, Aghtamar, at the threshold of April 24 to show the world that there is development in Armenian-Turkish relations, turkologist Artak Shakaryan forecasted today at a press conference, adding that we must respond to such steps of Turkey not in the context of going or not going, but by being more active and initiative.

According to him, we should understand the Armenians of Istanbul and not blame for the attitude. "We have said a lot of times that they are hostage in Turkey, if they rebel, a school or a church will be closed the next day," Mr. Shakaryan said, adding that the Istanbul Armenians think we must have participated in the liturgy, and not by applauding Turkey, but by being active, clearly showing that truth exists and we have not forgotten that.

5. Embassy of Armenia opened in Spain [Armenpress, 09/28/10]



On September 26, Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, located in Madrid, opened its doors for the Spanish-Armenian community.

Press service of the Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that a reception was organized in the hall of the embassy dedicated to the 19th anniversary of independence of Armenia and to opening of the Armenian embassy in Spain. Guests arrived from different parts of the country were present at the reception, including representatives of Armenian educational-cultural structures from Barcelona, Valencia, Malaga, Alikante.

A lot of Madrid-Armenians - businessmen, cultural figures, lawyers, lecturers, students of Armenian descent, the Union of Armenian Young People, which has displayed support in choice of the territory of the embassy, repair and furnishing, partook in the event organized by the embassy.

6. Vahan Hovhannisyan: 'Azerbaijan is the victim of the democracy it formed' [Armenpress, 09/28/10]

Today, Azerbaijan is the victim of the democracy it formed, according to Vahan Hovhannisyan, head of the NA Armenian Revolutionary Federation faction. He said at today's meeting with journalists that the Azerbaijani authorities and opposition tend to compete with each other 'by performing as more aggressive and uncompromising' about the Nagorno Karabakh issue. 'It brought to the point that not only Azerbaijan, but also the whole region fell into Azerbaijan's trap.

If today's Azerbaijan is really wise and demands settlement of the issue via mutual concessions, the Azerbaijani society can 'remove' the authorities. Therefore, before the elections Azerbaijan's aggressiveness in the contact line and in rhetoric may flame up,' Vahan Hovhannisyan said. He says there must not be any dispute at the National Assembly before putting the issue of the NK recognition to vote for that the bill is passed by 131 votes. If there is any dispute about the issue, it should not be put to vote, Vahan Hovhannisyan said.

As to the prolonging of the agreement on location of Russian military bases in Armenia, the speaker said he refers to it normally. It is accepted in the international practice, when powerful states become warrants of security and independence of small states, Vahan Hovhannisyan noted. He added that US is the warrant of security of a number of Eastern European states.

7. Hayk Babukhanyan: "We must demand of Turkey to meet the commitments intended by Treaty of Sevres" [Armenpress, 09/28/10]

We must demand of Turkey to meet the commitments intended by Treaty of Sevres and to return the occupied territories to Armenia, Hayk Babukhanyan, chairman of "Constitutional Right" union said today at a press conference, adding that Turkey attacked at Armenia this day 90 years ago, by violating the terms of Sever Treaty, as a result of which Armenia lost Erzurum, Trabzon, Van, Bitlis, Kars and Surmalu.

"Over these years Turkey was neither punished for the crime it committed, nor compensated the rights of Armenians, and went on methodically annihilating the historical-cultural heritage of Armenian people," Mr. Babukhanyan said. According to him, we must demand of Turkey and international states which signed under the Sever Treaty to fulfill the terms fixed in the treaty.

"We state that Armenian people have not reconciled themselves to the 90-year-old occupation and demand to return the property of Armenian people," he said. Head of the Social-Democratic Hunchakyan Party Lyudmila Sargsyan also attached importance to this day, noting that we must take lessons from it. Hayk Babukhanyan added that Turkey goes on with its anti-Armenian policy today as well.

BUSINESS

8. 54 Million People Visit Armenian National Pavilion at Shanghai Expo 2010 from April 30 to September 20 [Armenpress, 09/28/10]

54 million people visited the Armenian national pavilion at Shanghai Expo 2010 from April 30 to September 20; 2 million of them visited the pavilion September 20. Hayk Khanjyan, member of the Armenian organizing committee to "Shanghai Expo-2010" international exposition, chairman of "Beeline" company, said at a press conference, held today at the press hall of "Armenpress", that the Armenian national pavilion with its slogan – 'City of the World' – and the constructive solutions was appreciated by the Chinese organizers.



The 'Expo Shanghai' online bureau decided to award grand prix to the Armenian side September 21– Independence Day of Armenia – for excellent organization and presentation of the virtual pavilion. Hayk Khanjyan said this was not the only achievement of the Armenian delegation; the Armenian virtual pavilion was awarded with silver medal for its technological solutions and best realization of them.

According to Hayk Khanjyan, it was the first international exposition, during which not only material, but also virtual versions were exhibited. 'The virtual presentation was the 'copy' of the real pavilion and gave the visitors an opportunity to tour in the 'City of the World' virtually and experience the interesting solutions, offered by specialists,' Hayk Khanjyan said. 'The amiable atmosphere and the crowded lines around the Armenian pavilion prove our successes'. "Shanghai Expo-2010" universal international exposition, the slogan of which is 'Better City, Better Life', will be held until October 31, 2010.

DIASPORA

9. Celebration dedicated to independence anniversary in Glendale [Armenpress, 09/27/10]

On the initiative of Nor Serount (New Generation) Cultural Association the 19th anniversary of independence of Armenia was celebrated at Verdugo Park. Press service of the Social-Democratic Hunchakyan Party told Armenpress that honorary guest of the event – U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff, said that he is proud to deliver speech in front of representatives of a great nation.

"Your people confronted a lot of difficulties on the way to independence, underwent genocide. In spite of all this, you reached the independence you longed for. I had the honor to work with many representatives of Armenian people and have raised a lot of issues at the American government connected with the economic blockade of Armenia by Turkey and Azerbaijan.

I again congratulate the Armenian government and world-spread Armenians on the 19th anniversary of independence of Armenia," the congressman said. Mayor of Glendale Ara Najaryan, member of the province parliament of California Mike Gatto, other public-political figures were among the honorary guests.

Assemblyman Gatto spoke on how Armenian Independence Day is important symbolically, as it marks a small nation asserting its independence from the former Soviet Union after centuries of struggles and oppression in the region. The event was accompanied with dance and music performances, reciting. Thousands of Armenians arrived from different parts of USA partook in the celebration.

10. Hranush Hakobyan: "Visa facilitation regime is considered one of the most important achievements of RA Ministry of Diaspora" [Armenpress, 09/28/10]

Armenian Diaspora Ministry is working out a concept and a bill on repatriation, which in case of acquiring strength will create legal basis in all the processes connected with repatriation, Armenian Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan told Armenpress. "A decision has been adopted to publish a guidebook in English and Armenian for all those who wish to return homeland and start business, make investment or get education.

Thanks to the guidebook they will be competent on their rights. That guidebook will be the best friend of every Diaspora-Armenian, who wants to establish contact with the homeland," the minister said. Hranush Hakobyan stressed that any Armenian must have free entrance to his/ her homeland without a visa, and the visa facilitation regime is considered one of the most important achievements of the RA Ministry of Diaspora. The minister highly assessed that that the amendments in any law concern all the Diaspora-Armenians and not a certain group.

ARTS

11. "Armenia and the Soviet-Turkish relations in 1945-1946 diplomatic documents" book issued [Armenpress, 09/27/10]

A book entitled "Armenia and the Soviet-Turkish Relations in 1945-1946 Diplomatic Documents" will be presented September 29 in the National Archive of Armenia. Director of the archive Amatuni Virabyan told Armenpress that the editor of the book is Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, doctor of historical sciences Arman Kirakosyan. The documents involved in the book are kept in the National Archive of Armenia and according to the director, have been published for the first time. "These documentary data spread a new light over the history of reopening of the Armenian Cause in 1945," Mr. Virabyan said.



12. Concert on 90th Anniversary of Alexander Harutyunyan [Armenpress, 09/28/10]

Chamber music concert, dedicated to the 90th anniversary of Armenian Composer Alexander Harutyunyan, will be held September 28 at Komitas Chamber Music Hall. The concert is organized by the Fund for Classical Music Development and Aram Khachaturian Trio. Karen Shahgaldyan, violin player of the Aram Khachaturian Trio, said at today's meeting with journalists that several concerts, dedicated to the 90th anniversary of Alexander Harutyunyan, are currently being held in Yerevan.

'Our program is unique, as we will present the composer's chamber music creations, which are amazing, but not famous,' Karen Shahgaldyan said. He added the concert program was discussed with Alexander Harutyunyan and was prepared in such a way that will grant the listeners the opportunity to feel the warmth of the author's music. The concert's general sponsor is the 'South Caucasus Railway' CJSC. According to Vahe Davtyan, head of the company's press service, it is honor for 'The South Caucasus Railway' to sponsor such a concert.

RELIGION

13. RA Supreme Spiritual Council condemns cases of burning Koran [Armenpress, 09/28/10]

RA Supreme Spiritual Council, headed by Catholicos of All-Armenians Karekin II, condemns cases of burning Koran, as well as the statements on it. Press service of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin told Armenpress that being an apologist of inter-spiritual and inter-church dialogues the Armenian Church has always treated the religious emotions and values of every nation with respect.

SOCIAL

14. International conference of medicine producers to be held in Armenia [Armenpress, 09/27/10]

Two-day international conference of medicine producers will be held in November in Armenia. Samvel Zakaryan, executive director of the RA Union of Medicine Producers and Importers, told Armenpress that the up-to-date approaches to medicine production, as well as the international development directions in that sphere, the issues and their solutions will be presented at the conference. "During the meeting we also intend to present the achievements of Armenia in the sphere of medicine production.

Conduction of such an event will afford an opportunity to implement experience exchange, to establish new ties of cooperation, Mr. Zakaryan said. The project of the conference is still in drafting process. According to Mr. Zakaryan, now they try to reach participation agreements with medicine producers of a number of countries

15. Third all-Armenian conference and seventh international congress of dentists kicks off in Yerevan [Armenpress, 09/28/10]

The 3rd all-Armenian conference and 7th international congress of dentists kicked off today in the American University of Armenia, organized by the Armenian Association of Dentists. The initiative is dedicated to the 15th anniversary of establishment of the association, on the occasion of which a Week of Stomatology is announced in Armenia and Artsakh.

Chairman of the association Ashot Gevorgyan noted that the specialists will come forth with reports during the conference, referring to all branches of stomatology. According to him, suchlike events afford an opportunity to communicate with each other, implement experience exchange and get acquainted with international advanced approaches in the sphere. Mr. Gevorgyan, referring to the history of the association, noted that it has been full both of difficulties and achievements.

"Through his activity of many years the association proved that it can contribute to development of stomatology. I am sure that we will strengthen our positions in future even more and will work more efficiently," Mr. Gevorgyan said. The association, being a member of the World Dental Federation, actively cooperates with relevant structures of other countries. About 160 small and large clinics are associated with the Armenian Association of Dentists; the association cooperates with Diaspora specialists as well.

Armenian Minister of Healthcare Harutyun Kushkyan, welcoming the participants, noted that distinguished scientists arrived from different countries, skilled professionals, who are ready to implement



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experience exchange with Armenian specialists, are in Armenia within the framework of the event. "Exchange of thoughts will be implemented, as well as the opportunities of applying the newest methods of the sphere will be presented. I think new verges of cooperation will be developed for implementation of prospective programs," Mr. Kushkyan said. According to him, suchlike events have their influence on increase of medicine quality.

The minister noted that considerable successes have been registered in stomatology in the recent years, and the association has made its outstanding contribution to it. On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the latter Mr. Kushkyan awarded Ashot Gevorgyan with the golden medal of the ministry and professor Valery Tatitsyan – with a diploma of appreciation. An exhibition of dental tools and materials opened today in the first floor of the university within the frameworks of the event. Chairman of Prosperous Armenia Party Gagik Tsarukyan was also present at the exhibition. Mr. Gevorgyan noted that master classes will be conducted September 29 for the specialists of the sphere. On September 30, the event will be continued in Nagorno Karabakh.

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.