



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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### POLITICS

#### **1. Armenian President visits UN Armenia office [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 10/25/10]**

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of UN visited today the UN Armenia office.

Presidential press office told Armenpress that Serzh Sargsyan congratulated the UN Resident Coordinator Dafina Gercheva and employees of all the agencies and foundations of the organization. Serzh Sargsyan highly rated the work of the UN in Armenia, which the president said, is directed toward increase of the level of Armenia's development and welfare of its citizens.

The president thanked the staff of the office for their contribution to the solution of issues Armenia is facing and wished success.

"These 65 years showed that the role of the UN in the development of humanity is irreplaceable. I am glad that Armenia, becoming member of the UN in 1992, adopting principles of establishing all-human values and democracy as inseparable part of the state ideology, was actively involved in the UN bodies and within the limits of its possibility managed to contribute to the common work," President Sargsyan said, pointing out that Armenia is ready to intensively participate in the works of the organization, contributing to the general success.

UN Resident Coordinator Dafina Gercheva said that the activity of the UN Armenia Office would have been impossible without strategic cooperation with the RA government. She assured that with joint



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efforts it will be possible to reach the solution of the issues and from year to year increase the well-being of citizens of Armenia.

## **2. RA delegation speaks about attempts of Azerbaijan to confuse the international community [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

Armenia and Azerbaijan delivered speeches at the UN GA first committee discussions on "Regional disarmament and security" October 21 and 22.

Press and Information department of the Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that Azerbaijani representative read out a statement which was obviously outside of the context of discussion and almost word by word repeats the beaten arguments of Azerbaijani propaganda machine about Armenia's so-called "aggression", "occupant policy", "ethnic cleansing".

In his speech the Armenia's representative first referred to the achievements registered in the UN disarmament agenda, expressing Armenia's unreserved assistance and readiness to cooperate in these works. Referring to the South Caucasus security issues Armenia's representative highlighted the unconditioned and full implementation of international commitments in the disarmament sphere and pointed out the danger of race of armaments from the point of view of international and regional security.

During the discussions followed after speeches Armenian delegation referred also to the attempts of Azerbaijan to confuse the international community and drew the attention of the present to the unprecedented growth of military budget of Azerbaijan.

The delegation noted that such policy of the neighbor country threatens more the regional security and stability leading the efforts of the international community directed toward the solution of the existing issues to a deadline.

## **3. The voting for the bill on recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic to take place during the four-day sitting [Aravot, 10/25/10]**

The voting for the bill presented by the "Heritage" faction on recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic will take place during the four-day sitting that launched today. In response to the question of Raffi Hovhannissyan, the National Assembly Chairman Hovik Abrahamyan noted that according to the regulations, the bill will by all means be put for voting. Hovik Abrahamyan suggested that another discussions over the approaches for voting for the bill presented by Heritage be conducted with other factions of the NA.

"It is an issue of all-National significance and for the integrity of Armenia and Artsakh, for independence we must give our collective voice to the bill. Like the majority of the NA that presents all-National issues and we are voting for them, at this moment we too feel the support," Raffi Hovhannissyan said, suggesting other parliamentarians to adopt the bill on recognition of the NKR independence at the first reading, "afterwards, discuss all the details over the issue as associates, jointly."

By the way, the NA started its four-day sitting at the reconstructed oval hall equipped with newest necessary technology for the work of parliamentarians. But the reporters covering the works of the NA expressed complaint to the head of the parliament's staff Gegham Gharibjanyan about their working conditions. They say the box intended for them does not have computers and conveniences for recording. Representatives of mass media are also deprived of opportunity to contact with members of the parliament as the reporters' box is "cut" from the session hall. Gegham Gharibjanyan promised that all the raised issues will get positive solution and from the next four-day sitting the reporters will be ensured with all the necessary working conditions.

## **4. Armenian Ambassador to Egypt Armen Melkonyan hands credentials to Chairman of the African Union Commission Jean Ping [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

Today in Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia, Armenian Ambassador to Egypt Armen Melkonyan handed his credentials on taking the post of observer and authorized representative in the African Union to Chairman of the African Union Commission Jean Ping and conveyed the warm greetings and best wishes of Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan.

Press service of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Armenpress that after the ceremony of handing the credentials a separate talk was held, during which the prospects of expansion of mutually profitable cooperation between Armenia and Africa were discussed.



Armen Melkonyan presented to Jean Ping the priorities of Armenia's foreign policy, the active involvement in international and regional processes, gave illustrations over the negotiation process of Nagorno Karabakh. During the meeting bilateral importance was attached to investment of Armenia in a number of African states, for example, in Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Chairman Jean Ping welcomed the decision of the Armenian government on being presented in the African Union in a status of observer, and expressed readiness to jointly work in the direction of further development of relations with our country.

## **5. Yervand Bozoyan: In case Azerbaijan starts war, Armenia must immediately recognize NKR independence [Armenpress, 10/26/10]**

No agreement or treaty will be signed during the coming meeting of the presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan but the Russian side will try to propose a point on non-usage of force. This opinion was expressed by political analyst Yervand Bozoyan, speaking about the coming trilateral meeting of presidents in Astrakhan.

According to him, in Artsakh issue the USA is trying to give package solution and Russia establish and keep the tradition of trilateral meetings. Yervand Bozoyan said he is sure at some moment Armenia will by all means recognize the independence of the NK but at this moment it is not in Armenia's interests.

"If Azerbaijan starts military activities, Armenia must immediately recognize the NKR independence, sign military agreement and actively participate in activities," he said.

Mr. Bozoyan said as a result of coming parliamentary elections the majority of the NA will comprise the Armenian Republican Party, followed by the ARF and Heritage. "The Armenian National Congress will too enter the parliament but it has lost its weight and will celebrate small victory," he noted. According to Bozoyan, the appearing of a new force is not excluded and it may drastically change the political situation.

## **6. NA to adopt bill on recognition of the NKR independence in case RA President suggests [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

After the coming meeting of the presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan if President Serzh Sargsyan suggests the National Assembly adopt the bill presented by the "Heritage" faction on recognition of the independence of Nagorno Karabakh Republic, the legislative body will do it, Armenian National Assembly Chairman Hovik Abrahamyan said today speaking to reporters.

According to him, when the Armenian President decides that it is necessary to recognize the NKR independence "de jure", "we by all means, even through extraordinary session will adopt the bill".

"There must not be created an impression that Armenia does not want to recognize the NKR independence. We just do not want to impede the peace talks," Hovik Abrahamyan said, reminding that he has suggested postponing the voting for the bill but has not yet got an answer. At the same time in coming days the NA will conduct discussions with the "Heritage".

## **7. Armen Rustamyan: The Nagorno Karabakh conflict is not being solved because of unconstructive position of Azerbaijan [Armenpress, 10/26/10]**

The Nagorno Karabakh conflict is not being solved because of unconstructive position of Azerbaijan. This viewpoint was expressed by the member of the ARF Supreme Body, chairman of the NA foreign relations standing committee Armen Rustamyan, adding that Azerbaijan not only fails to imagine that the issue must first of all be solved through recognition of the NKR but roughens its position more. "Until these positions do not undergo changes no progress is possible to expect," Armen Rustamyan pointed out. According to him, the negotiation process entered a public phase which changes the latter's logic.

Referring to the suggestion of the "Heritage" party on recognition of the NKR independence, the speaker noted that the issue must not have been taken to the voting phase as it may be speculated by Azerbaijan. "The bill will not pass as the majority is against," he noted adding that here there must not be a division in the viewpoints of opposition and authorities as outside of the country we present us with a joint face. Armen Rustamyan also noted that going out of the negotiation process and recognizing the NKR may be considered the last weapon of Armenia.



## **8. Armen Rustamyan: Armenian Revolutionary Federation does its best in order electoral processes are adequate to people's wishes [Armenpress, 10/26/10]**

Armenian Revolutionary Federation does its best in order electoral processes are adequate to the wishes of people, representative of the ARF, Chairman of the NA Standing Committee on Foreign Relations Armen Rustamyan said today at a meeting with journalists. He said that the role of parties must increase in electoral processes. Mr. Rustamyan said that the ARF also intends activation of province structures.

"A rally was conducted some days ago in Aragatsotn; suchlike rallies, which will refer to province and social-economic issues, will be conducted in all the provinces," Mr. Rustamyan stressed.

Referring to participation of the ARF in the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections, the NA member noted that they want to come to power only through electoral processes. "We must take into consideration that the electoral process involves both the pre-electoral and post-electoral processes," Mr. Rustamyan said, adding that the ARF looks upon them within one common logic.

"The true reputation of a political force is seen in the moods of people and in the circumstance how many people the given force can bring next to the ballot-box," he stressed.

## **BUSINESS**

### **9. Armenia to participate in international London tourism exhibition [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

Armenia will participate November 9-12 in international tourism exhibition in London. Public relations officer of the Armenian National Competitiveness Foundation Zara Amatuni told Armenpress that seven tour operators as well as representatives of the foundation will represent Armenia. The novelties of the tourism sphere, new tourism packages will be presented at a separate pavilion. Like in 2009 this year too the Nagorno Karabakh Republic will participate in the event.

The main goal of the exhibition is to promote the development of national, regional and international tourism. It is an important event for tour operators, agencies, hotels, airlines. Last year more than 5 000 companies took part in the event and over 24 500 visits were registered.

As part of the exhibition conferences, workshops and discussions will be held. Armenia is participating in this exhibition from 2001.

## **DIASPORA**

### **10. Armenian Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan to visit Armenian community structures in Iran [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

An agreement has been reached related to the visit of Armenian Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan to Iran. Its main goal is the meetings with the Armenian community. Today the Diaspora Minister has already left for Iran together with the delegation headed by Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan.

But the press service of the Diaspora Ministry told Armenpress that there is also need of separate visit by the Diaspora Minister. Before leaving for Iran, Armenian Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan noted that though the visit is at governmental level and has a rich program, during which a business conference will also be held, she will certainly visit Armenian community structures.

Referring to the program of the Armenian Diaspora Ministry concerning the Iranian-Armenian community, Hranush Hakobyan said that the community plays very important role in activating and strengthening the literal activity.

## **ARTS**

### **11. The 8th forum on "Shirak's Historic-Cultural Heritage" ends its work in Gyumri [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

The 8th forum on "Shirak's Historic-Cultural Heritage" ended its work October 24 with a plenary session. The event that launched October 22 on the initiative of the Shirak's Armenology center of the RA National Academy of Sciences gathered more than 60 participants.



Sergey Hayrapetyan, head of the Shirak's Armenology center, told Armenpress that the forum which raised issues of Shirak's rich ethnography, archeology, architecture, art etc., was quite effective. Such facts were presented that are interesting not only for the representatives of scientific sphere but for the whole public.

All the materials presented at the forum are summed up at the "Materials of the 8th International Scientific Sitting" collection.

## **12. All-Armenian Painting Day in Yerevan [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

The third All-Armenian Painting Day kicked off October 24 in Yerevan Park of Lovers. Hundreds of children of different age groups throughout the republic and Diaspora participated in the contest-event initiated by the Fund for Preservation of Wild Nature and Cultural Merits within the framework of the Painting Day. The children were also involved in various nature protection games and actions.

An official from the fund told Armenpress that the goal of the contest, which has been organized already for the 3rd year, is to disseminate love and interest among children in art, to encourage them to express themselves over nature protection issues.

This year's Painting Day was peculiar as children from Diaspora communities partook in it for the first time, turning it into an all-Armenian event.

The Fund for Preservation of Wild Nature and Cultural Merits will publish catalogues, books and calendars with the paintings of the participant children, which will be provided to various nature protection organizations, festivals, and governmental structures.

The results of the painting contest will be summed up in winter by an award giving ceremony.

## **13. World famous musicians Joe Cocker, Goran Bregovic and Placido Domingo to give concerts in Armenia [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

World famous musicians Joe Cocker, Goran Bregovic and Placido Domingo will give concerts for the Armenian spectator just in Armenia, Jo Cocker on October 26, Bregovic – on November 15 and Domingo – on December 3.

Chairman of "Yerevan Prospects" 11th musical international festival Razmik Stepanyan said today at a meeting with journalists that the process of inviting Joe Cocker was especially difficult. "Taking into consideration the age, the suspended tours, and the world high reputation, invitation was accompanied with complications, but ended with success," Mr. Stepanyan said, adding that Joe Cocker will arrive by special plane, and will stay in Armenia for a short period of time, without holding any press conference. World hits and other works will be included in the contest program.

"The situation is other in case of Goran Bregovic: the latter will spend in Armenia a whole day and will provide time to mass media as well," Razmik Stepanyan said, adding that Bregovich comes with well known Wedding and Funeral Orchestra.

According to Mr. Stepanyan, it was not easy to invite Placido Domingo, too. Nevertheless, the world famous composer agreed to arrive in Armenia. "Conductor of Washington Opera Theater Domingo, who is also Charles Aznavour's friend, admitted the invitation with pleasure," Mr. Stepanyan said, adding that the first part of the concert will be classical and the second part – Neapolitan.

"Invitation of world famous great stars is of cultural and national significance for us first of all, and then only – of commercial. I am sure that suchlike initiatives will open new horizons for Armenia in musical sphere," Razmik Stepanyan said.

The three concerts will be implemented in Karen Demirchyan Sport and Concert Complex of Yerevan. The organizers said that Joe Cocker's concert is sponsored by "Ameria" bank, and the sponsors of the other two will be known later.

## **14. International Book Exhibition in Yerevan [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

Within the framework of "Spread and Funding of Translation Literature" 4th forum of translators and publishers of CIS and Baltic states, an international book exhibition opened today at Arno Babajanyan Concert Hall, where about 50 printing houses and publications were presented. Approximately 30 books, book publishing innovations were exhibited under the heading of "Book exhibition as information platform in favor of development of translation literature" with participation of authors and translators.

Director of Writers' Union of Armenia Levon Ananyan said that the translation art is an important ingredient of culture and civilization. "A good book educates a whole nation, and a bad one distorts the



taste of a generation,” he said, adding that merits developing taste are involved within the framework of the forum. Levon Ananyan also noted that together with Yerevan State Linguistic University after Brusov the Writers’ Union implements bilateral translations in different languages, which are also impetus for development of literary art.

Editor-in-Chief of “Literary Magazine” weekly Alexander Nabokovi said that it is a valuable work to conduct such a forum the 4th year uninterruptedly; it contributes to formation of cultural information sphere. Speaking of the decision of the UNESCO on recognizing Yerevan as Book Capital 2012, he stated that the capital of Armenia is worth of that title. “I guessed this still in 2009, which was brought of life this January,” he said, adding that the organizers and participants of the forum work for the sake of Yerevan, book, culture and humanity.

“Art House Media” organization from Russia, “Vsesvit” and “Jurnal Raduga” organizations from Ukraine, “Literatura Imastatsva” organization from Belarusia, as well as “Antares”, “Edit Print”, “Arevik”, “Nairi” organizations from Armenia were presented within the framework of the exhibition.

## **15. Bako Sahakyan receives cultural and art workers of the republic [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

On 25 October President Bako Sahakyan received cultural and art workers of the republic as well as heads of organizations functioning in the sphere.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that issues related to the cultural sphere, as well as ways of their solution were discussed during the meeting.

The NKR President underlined that the cultural sphere was among the pivotal strategic directions of the republic’s development and its representation to the world and noted that the present issues are always in the spotlight of the authorities.

Bako Sahakyan mentioned that such meetings gave opportunity to have more precise idea about the issues of cultural sphere and take them into consideration while realizing state policy.

Secretary of the Security Council, head of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President Marat Mousaelyan, minister of culture and youth affairs Narine Aghabalyan, minister of education and science Vladik Khachatryan and other officials partook at the meeting.

## **16. Ani included in the list of eliminating monuments of the world [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

About 20 historic monuments, including the ones of Ani, are registered in the list of monuments that appeared on the edge of elimination.

The report published by the Global Heritage Fund and entitled “Protect our Eliminating Heritage” registers that the cause of elimination of one of the remarkable monuments in Ani – the Ani Main Temple – is the ineffective policy of Turkish government as well as extended hooliganism of finding historic samples in Ani for selling them.

It is noticeable that Turkey is the first in the list with the indifference toward historic cultural heritage and with the index of riskiness of the annually visiting tourists. Turkey’s index in that list is assessed as critical.

## **17. “Popok” international advertisement festival in Armenia [Armenpress, 10/26/10]**

For the first time “Popok” international advertisement festival will be conducted October 28-30 in Armenia. Chairman of the festival Armen Martirosyan told journalists that this will be the biggest advertisement event in Armenia. It has already found a big echo in the world, particularly, in about 188 cities of 58 countries. According to him, though “Popok” is conducted for the first time, over 400 applications have already been received, about 170 of which – from Armenia.

Chairman of “Kanachastan” NGO Raffi Niziblyan noted that from October 27 master classes for employees of the advertisement sphere will start, conducted by professionals invited from abroad. The members of the jury, who are famous for Armenian televiewer through their advertisements, will come forth with lectures.

“Participation in contests is a precondition of developing, being introducible and famous,” Director of “Radio-Van” radio company Shushanik Arevshatyan said. Arevik Martirosyan noted that in order to provide impartiality foreigners have been mainly involved in all the groups of the jury.

Speakers noted that at 4.00 pm, October 29, all the clips sent for the contest will be shown in Moscow Cinema for free. “After conduction of the advertisement festival in Georgia, the quality of the



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Georgian advertisement has essentially changed: we hope the same influence will be here," Mr. Martirosyan noted.

## RELIGION

### **18. Representative of Holy See participates in "Let's Save Monasteries" gathering [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

A gathering on "Let's Save Monasteries" took place in Rome's Santa Maria Bambina University October 22 with the participation of representatives of Oriental Orthodox churches. An official from the Holy See press service told Armenpress that at the gathering the participants discussed issues on preservation of churches, monasteries and world cultural monuments, the practical steps for their preservation and restoration.

The gathering decided to set up a coordinating group that will coordinate financial, publishing and monument preservation clearly directed programs.

Armenian St. Apostolic Church was represented by the primate of the Damascus Diocese of the Armenian Church Archbishop Armash Nalbandyan who presented report about the Armenian churches and monasteries.

### **19. Restoration works of the ceiling of St. Kirakos Church, Diarbekir, finished [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

During the reception held on the occasion of finishing the renovation works of the ceiling of St. Kirakos Church in Diarbekir, Mayor of Diarbekir Osman Baydemir told the Armenians gathered there that Diarbekir belongs to Armenians as much as to him.

"You have as much rights to this city, as I do," he said. Armenpress reports, citing the Kurdish mass media, that the repair works of the Armenian Church in that city, which is mainly settled by Kurds, are implemented with the support of the Armenian patriarchate of Constantinople and Diarbekir municipality. Deputy Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople Aram Ateshyan, Diarbekir's leadership and representative of the Armenian community of Istanbul participated in the reception, which was held October 23.

After the repair the church will be handed to the Armenian patriarchate of Constantinople in contrast to Surb Khach Church of Aghtamar, which was turned into a museum by the Turkish government. The repair of the church will cost over 2, 5 million USD and will be completed next year. The Turkish press refers to this rarely, while in case of Surb Khach it immediately welcomed the restoration process and the turning of the church into a museum.

## SOCIAL

### **20. Serzh Sargsyan present at Gyumri Day celebration [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, as part of his visit to Shirak province, was present October 23 at the City Day celebration of the town of Gyumri which is being marked from 2003 and has become a tradition. Within the framework of the event titles of "honorable citizens" were granted to professor Nikolay Hovhannissyan and RA consul general to the RF Federal region Ararat Gomtsyan.

Afterwards the leader of the country watched at the "Cross-Stone Park" established in the vicinity of St All Rescuer Church the duplicates of cross stones eliminated in Old Jugha.

About 20 cross-stones are placed in the "Cross-Stone Park" created by the sculptors of the town. In future the number of cross-stones will exceed 100.

### **21. Summit of Francophonie for the first time touches upon Artsakh issue [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

The 13th summit of the member states of the International Organization of the Francophonie took place in the Swiss town of Montro October 23-24 within the framework of the 40th anniversary of the organization.

Delegations of 70 member, associated and observing countries arrived in Montro to participate in the event. Press and Information Department of the Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that Armenian delegation headed by the Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan participated in the summit.



Speaking at a summit the Armenian Foreign Minister rated high the cooperation within the framework of Francophonie and pointed out the role of organization in consolidation of peace and reconciliation between peoples and countries through multi-cultural dialogue.

Edward Nalbandyan said he is very glad about the decision to conduct the General Assembly of the Francophone countries in 2011 in Yerevan and pointed! out that this decision is also a special assessment to Armenia as an active member and reliable partner.

At the conclusive resolution of the summit for the first time a point on Artsakh conflict settlement had been included which particularly expresses assistance to the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs exerted toward peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. It also calls on the parties to restrain from using force or threat of force and continue the peace talks over the principles proposed by the co-chairs.

Abdou Diouf was re-elected Secretary General of the International Organization of the Francophonie.

Within the framework of the summit Edward Nalbandyan met with his counterparts of different countries.

## **22. 44 people applied for getting asylum in Armenia [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

About 44 people applied during the nine months of the running year to the state migration service of the Territorial Administration Ministry to get asylum in Armenia. Chief specialist of the asylum issues department of the migration service Ruzanna Petrosyan told Armenpress that 15 of the applicants are from Iraq, the rest from Iran and African countries. The applicants from Iran are of Armenian decent, the ones from Iran and African countries are representatives of other nations. Mrs Petrosyan said as compared with previous years the number of applicants from Iraq has notably reduced.

All the applicants are granted certificate of temporary staying with three months period, after which the application is being discussed and a decision is being made on giving right of asylum in Armenia. The applications of persons applying from Iraq are mainly being satisfied. During the running year applications of 16 persons have been satisfied of which 14 were from Iraq and the rest from other countries. Fourteen applications have been rejected, the 11 are in the phase of discussion.

## **23. 36 106 visits to Matenadaran have been registered in nine months of 2010 [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

About 36 106 visits to Mesrob Mashtots Ancient Manuscripts Museum-Institute have been registered during the nine months of the running year, including 3 812 groups. Head of the showing salon Aida Charkhchyan told Armenpress that great number of tourists from Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Russia visited Matenadaran.

Mrs Charkhchyan said those visiting from Russia are mainly of Armenian decent, and those from other European countries – representatives of other nations.

She said from the CIS countries and mainly Russia no group visits have been registered, and from other states quite often. This year for instance group visits from Taiwan, Israel, South Korea and Iran took place. Mrs Charkhchyan said as compared with the previous years this time intensification has been noticed among the visitors from Japan, Denmark, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czechia.

About 17 000 manuscripts are kept in Matenadaran of which 3 000 is in foreign languages. There are also 100 000 archive documentaries, documents, 3 000 old-style books.

## **24. New school of Gishi village to be handed to exploitation in January 2011 [Armenpress, 10/25/10]**

The new school of Gishi village of NK Martuni region will be handed to exploitation in January 2011. An official from “Hayastan” all-Armenian fund told Armenpress that currently the roof is under construction and the walls of the second floor are being fortified. The overall cost of repair of the school is 513 million AMD.

The program is funded by the NKR government, “Vardanyans’ Family” fund and “Telethon 2008” of “Hayastan” all-Armenian fund.

The old school was in poor state and had no heating system. Studies showed that bigger financial sources will be necessary for reconstruction than for construction of a new building.



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Within the framework of the new program of the fund two-storey school will be constructed, intended for 320 pupils. The school will have separate classes for chemistry, biology, first medical aid and military education.

The number of the village population is 1385; they are mainly engaged in cattle-breeding and farming.

## **25. Armenian Journalists' Union has 1400 members [Armenpress, 10/26/10]**

Armenian Journalists' Union has 1400 members the number of which is gradually growing. Head of the union Astghik Gevorgyan told Armenpress that the union has rules of ethics and all the member journalists have to keep the established points.

"There are cases when a court finds guilty a reporter for bribery or other reasons. Such reporters are being withdrawn from our lists," Mrs Gevorgyan said. According to her, those may become members of the union who at least have two years of working experience, students of Journalism Faculty of universities that have publications as well as freelancers.

"Those who want to become members of our union must present at least five publications. There were cases when the applicants were rejected for presenting low quality materials," the chairwoman of the union said, adding that monthly 1000 AMD membership fee is set up. The membership to the union is being suspended not only because of violating ethic rules but in case the journalist leaves for settling abroad.

## **26. World Armenian Writers Union has 250 members [Armenpress, 10/26/10]**

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan is honorable member of the World Armenian Writers Union set up a year ago and which currently has 250 members. Co-chairs of the union Ghazar Mirzoyan and Anahit Mkhitarian told Armenpress that for becoming member of the union it is necessary to have an essential contribution to the Armenian fine arts, to recognition of the Armenian arts figures in the world and to organization of their exhibitions.

"This year we are organizing a row of events dedicated to Tigran the Great as part of which exhibition-contest will be conducted the prizes of which will be handed by the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan," Anahit Mkhitarian said.

Ghazar Mirzoyan said that common members of the union are being selected in two statuses – professional and self-educators. "We give the self-educators an opportunity to express themselves, separate exhibitions are being organized for them. Each can become our member but while organizing exhibitions we are guided with the quality of work of the mentioned artist," Mr Mirzoyan said.

World Armenian Writers' Union is closely cooperating not only with Diaspora institutions but with the foreign countries. This year in May exhibition-sale was organized in Egypt in collaboration with the Foreign Ministry of Egypt. Currently exhibitions are intended to be organized in Eastern Europe, Switzerland. "We have few contacts with foreign specialists. Very often artists cannot take their works abroad for selling. Two-three times in a year we are buying works of artists for our fund," Mr. Mirzoyan said.

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Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

*Established in 1906, AGBU ([www.agbu.org](http://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.*