



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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### POLITICS

#### **1. Arthur Baghdasaryan: 'Armenia expects a more constructive approach from Turkey' [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

'Armenia expects a more constructive approach from Turkey,' Arthur Baghdasaryan, secretary of the RA National Security Council, stated in an interview with a Polish newspaper. He informed that the signed protocols on establishing diplomatic relations and opening the borders between Armenia and Turkey still exist.

'Any precondition in the regulation of the Armenian-Turkish relations is unacceptable,' Arthur Baghdasaryan said. As to the Nagorno Karabakh issue, the Secretary of RA National Security Council said Armenia is for a peaceful settlement of the issue. 'The aggressive rhetoric style and threats of Baku are unacceptable for us,' Arthur Baghdasaryan said. He added that Armenia will never agree with making Artsakh be a part of Azerbaijan.

#### **2. President Serzh Sargsyan makes a working visit to the Nagorno Karabakh Republic [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

President Serzh Sargsyan left November 13 on a working visit to the defense lines of our country and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Presidential Office reported.

President Sargsyan and the President of NKR Bako Sahakian, accompanied by the RA Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanian and other high ranking officials, visited defense lines and observed first-hand combat readiness of the troops, and the ongoing works of army-building.

The leaders of Armenia and Karabakh were present at the military exercises, conducted observation of the defense area, and participated in the opening ceremony of the apartments built for the military staff.

Later, the President of Armenia conducted a working meeting with the participation of the Army High Command.

#### **3. President Serzh Sargsyan will conduct a working visit to Moscow [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

On November 16, President Serzh Sargsyan will conduct a two-day working visit to Moscow.



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The program of the visit includes Armenian-Russian bilateral contacts, as well as President Serzh Sargsyan's participation at the event dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Union of Armenians of Russia, the All-Russian non-governmental organization.

In Moscow, the President of Armenia, President of the Board of Trustees of the All-Armenian Hayastan Fund will also take part in the annual Gala Night of the Fund.

#### **4. Hovik Abrahamyan says war menace of Azerbaijani authorities formal [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

The war menace of the Azerbaijani authorities is formal: they are sure that they will never achieve any success through war, according to Hovik Abrahamyan, chairman of the RA National Assembly. He said today at a meeting with the 9th-grade pupils of the secondary school of the village of Azatamut, Tavush Marz, that it is the Azerbaijani party, which violates the ceasefire regime regularly.

'We are ready to protect our nation and homeland. Today we have a strong army, which is able to protect our land. Armenia is the warrantor of security of the Nagorno Karabakh: everybody understands this,' Hovik Abrahamyan said in answer to questions of the pupils, which live and study near the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

The National Assembly Chairman says Azerbaijan has become a sultanate, which relies on its 'oil-dollars' and acts by spreading falsification and anti-propaganda. He stressed that the NK issue must be regulated on the basis of right of Artsakh's people to self-determination.

'Azerbaijan endeavors to make international establishments adopt anti-Armenian resolutions and by this pull the NK issue out of the framework of the OSCE Minsk group. Armenia and the Co-Chairs are against this. The negotiations kicked off long ago, but up to now we have not achieved any notable success because of the non-constructive policy by the Azerbaijani party. Our vision is the peaceful settlement of the issue within the framework of the OSCE Minsk group,' Hovik Abrahamyan noted.

He said though the authorities of Artsakh do not partake in the talks yet, they are being informed about the process and always present their position.

'The President of Armenia will not sign any document, which is not driven by the interests of the Nagorno Karabakh and not agreed with the authorities of Artsakh. The Nagorno Karabakh! Republic cannot be a part of Azerbaijan,' Hovik Abrahamyan stated.

In answer to the question about recognition of the NKR's independence by Armenia, the NA Speaker said 'in the future the self-determination of Artsakh will be adopted de jure'. 'At the moment it is not appropriate, as it may cause break of talks,' he noted.

#### **5. Daniel Rosenblum: We will do our best to improve business environment in the USA and Armenia [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

We will do our best to improve the business environment in the USA and Armenia, representative of the US government Daniel Rosenblum came forward with this statement at the session followed the Armenian-American intergovernmental commission, adding that the most important precondition on that way is creation of equal conditions for companies engaged in trade and investments.

Speaking of today's session of the commission, he pointed out the meeting with representatives of the business sphere, during which opinions and proposals were voiced, directed toward expansion of commercial relations of the USA and Armenia and growth of investments.

Armenian Minister of Economy Nerses Yeritsyan said that the issues discussed at the session concerned the assessment of the macro-economic state of Armenia, tax and customs policy and administration, introduction of international quality standards, and fair and equal competition. "Concrete sphere discussions on agriculture, healthcare, energy and water resources management were also held," the minister said.

He said that despite the CAPS program has been brought to an end, a new agreement has been signed between the USAID and Armenian government directed toward the social and healthcare spheres, as well as toward competitiveness increase in Armenia.

US Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch, heads of US and RA departments, other high-ranking officials partook in today's Armenian-American commission.

#### **6. Bako Sahakyan met President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan [Noyan Tapan, 11/14/10]**

On 14 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan met President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan.



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The Presidents discussed a wide range of issues related to cooperation between the two Armenian states. The heads of the states rated high military exercises of the Defense Army, underlining that they once again demonstrated that the Armenian sides are effectively maintaining military and political balance in the region.

Touching upon economic cooperation the need to further deepen and strengthen it was mutually underlined.

## **7. Vahan Dilanyan: Armenia's political field needs new approaches and fresh ideas [Armenpress, 11/16/10]**

There is an issue of change of generation in Armenia, member of the council of the Young Politicians Union of Armenia Vahan Dilanyan told today journalists, adding that the political field also needs new approaches and fresh ideas.

According to him, it is very important that professionals work in the political field. "I hope that the parliament to be formed in 2012 will have those qualitative attributes," Mr. Dilanyan pointed out, adding that by that it will enable to find new solutions to old issues.

Mr. Dilanyan noted that the Young Politicians Union of Armenia, which has been working about 2 years and currently has 230 members, strives to become a political school, which will give well-prepared political figures.

"The political initiatives of young politicians are quite active in the recent period, but I consider that they must be more united in order to bring new quality to the political field," the speaker concluded.

## **BUSINESS**

### **8. US-Armenia Joint Economic Taskforce [Noyan Tapan, 11/14/10]**

Daniel N. Rosenblum, Coordinator for Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, traveled to Armenia to lead the U.S. delegation at today's meeting of the U.S.-Armenia Joint Economic Task Force (USATF). The task force was co-chaired by Nerses Yeritsian, the Republic of Armenia's Minister of Economy.

The USATF, established in 2000, provides a forum in which to further economic cooperation between our two countries, discuss trade and investment issues, advance financial and market reforms in Armenia, and identify opportunities for U.S. assistance to contribute to Armenia's long-term economic development. The task force is an open forum to discuss issues of concern and interest to both countries.

This year's discussion in Yerevan focused on creating a better environment for promoting business and focused on several sectors: tax and customs policy, fair and equitable competition, rule of law issues, and implementing international quality standards. In addition, the government of Armenia hosted a lunch that included U.S. and Armenian business representatives to further discuss these issues.

## **ARTS**

### **9. Culture Center of Shushi being reconstructed [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

The reconstruction of the Culture Center of Shushi will end till August, 2011. An official from 'Hayastan' All-Armenian Fund told Armenpress that the reconstruction work of the main building, boiler-house and electric boiler-house is currently being implemented.

The building has four floors. The culture center also has a summer hall, which was destroyed last year because of a strong wind. The center has dance and song circles. After the reconstruction the theatre of Shushi is intended to be moved to the Culture Center.

The reconstruction is financed by 'Hayastan' All-Armenian Fund's local body in Toronto. The total cost of the project is 354 million AMD.

The Culture Center of Shushi was built in the 1960s. It has a hall, intended for 450 people. In 2007-2008 the 'Golden Apricot' annual film festival was held in the culture center.

### **10. 120-140 state-funded books published annually [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

120-140 state-funded fiction, scientific, junior and other books are published annually. Edward Militonyan, head of RA Culture Ministry's Agency on Book Publishing, said today at a meeting with



journalists that those books are published not only in Armenian, but also in the languages of national minorities, living in Armenia.

'In the recent three years Armenia has lacked for books on music. 100 books have been published for filling this gap. The main part of those books was sent to music schools,' Edward Militonyan said.

This year over 132 million AMD was provided by the state for book printing. Edward Militonyan says due to a special program by the RA Government books have been translated from other languages into Armenia and vice versa in the recent years. 'In this way we present our history, literature and art to the world. Our books have an important significance in international expositions,' he said.

Davit Sargsyan, director of the RA National Library, said books are currently an important means of propaganda, so it is necessary to struggle not only for publishing books, but also preserving libraries. According to Davit Sargsyan, over 300 libraries have been closed in the Republic in the recent 20 years.

'We must exert every effort so that libraries do not lose their role and significance. All in all, Yerevan is declared as 2012 World Book Capital,' Davit Sargsyan said.

## **11. Exhibition "We will Preserve the History for you" in Stepanakert [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

On November 13 in the foyer of Stepanakert Chamber of Culture and Youth, Artsakh State Archive organized an exhibition on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of its establishment under the heading of "We will preserve the History for you".

Executive Director of "NKR State Archive" state non-trade organization Vardges Ulubabyan told Armenpress that over 200 exhibits were presented at the exhibition, which depict the interesting historical events taken place since 1930 in Artsakh.

NKR State Archive will hereafter have its website, the presentation of which took place during the opening of the exhibition. It was presented to the guests by means of a slide-show, for making use of it one must log in [www.nkrarchives.com](http://www.nkrarchives.com).

Executive Director of the National Archive of Armenia Amatuni Virabyan, Speaker of NKR National Assembly Ashot Ghulyan, NKR Ministers of Justice, Culture and Youth Affairs Narine Narimanyan and Narine Aghabalyan were present at the celebration.

## **12. An exhibition entitled "Body: Modern Image Art in Armenia" opens [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

An exhibition entitled "Body: The New Image Art in Armenia" opened today in the Artists' Union of Armenia under the patronage of the Armenian Culture Ministry. Five art figure-founders – Ararat Sargsyan, Sargis Hamalbashyan, Arevik Arevshatyan, Arman Grigoryan and Davit Kareyan have undertaken the exhibition.

Coordinator of the exhibition Ararat Sargsyan told Armenpress that over 50 works of 39 modern and classical art figures have been presented at the exhibition, who depict the relations of the human body and landscape painting.

According to Chairman of the Artists' Union Karen Aghamyan, the exhibition is unique with its type. "The paintings presented at the exhibition show how Armenian artists percept the human body as of 100 years. The amazing thing is that almost everything has remained the same: we see the same forms and approaches," Karen Aghamyan noted, highly ap! praising the circumstance that suchlike courageous exhibitions are organized in Armenia more frequently.

The exhibition will be open till November 23.

## **13. 'I Go to School: 10 Years Later' Documentary Shown [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

A documentary, titled 'I Go to School: 10 Years Later', was shown today at Narekatsi Art Union. The documentary was shot by the request of 'Bridge of Hope' NGO in assistance with the International Development Agency of Denmark, Foreign Ministry of Norway and 'Mission East' Humanitarian Aid Organization. Ara Shirinyan, director of the documentary, said in an interview with Armenpress that the documentary is about 4 young people, who have physical disability.

The 4 characters share stories about the first difficulties and achievements, they had 10 years ago in their secondary school. 'How was their life changed? What was the impact of education on them? What dreams do they have today? This 30-minute long documentary is about these questions,' Ara Shirinyan said. 'The human power is unlimited, if one has physical disabilities, it does not mean that he cannot be a full member of the society,' he added.



Zaruhi Batoyan, member of 'Bridge of Hope' NGO, said people with physical disabilities, can 'achieve many heights in their life in case they are given the opportunity to express themselves'. 'First of all they need an opportunity of education, as basic education makes a person competitive and grants him/her the opportunity to create his/her future,' Zaruhi Batoyan said.

#### **14. Festival of Christian film opens in Saint Petersburg [Armenpress, 11/16/10]**

The opening of the 4th international Christian film festival was held in Smolni Cathedral, Saint Petersburg, in which the spiritual leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church, Armenian Apostolic Church, Rome Catholic and Luther Churches, as well as representatives of urban authorities, and different classes of society participated.

Chairman of the festival, Director of "Isakov Cathedral" state museum, Russian people's artist Nikolay Burov welcomed the participants and guests of the festival. The motto of the festival is "Do Kindness" and from that viewpoint, according to Nikolay Burov, the mission of Christian film is kind and responsible not only for the spiritual class, but for wide stripes of society as well. A concert of spiritual music was given, and "The Bells are still ringing" short-length documentary film was shown.

Figures of documentary film of Armenia participate in the festival, who will present their works to the spectator.

The correspondent of Armenpress from Saint Petersburg informed that the participants and guests of the film festival will for the first time watch "Gregory" film by Armen Mkrtchyan, and the documentary films of "From Ararat to Sion" by director Edgar Baghdasaryan and "Passions from Gregory" by Armen Romov.

Film showings, "round tables", creative meetings, exhibitions and excursions will be organized within the framework of the Christian film festival.

### **SOCIAL**

#### **15. Education and career expo 2010 in Yerevan [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

The 'Education and Career Expo 2010' 11th International Professional Exposition will be held November 16-18 at 'Moscow House' cultural-business center of Yerevan. An official from the LOGOS EXPO Center, organizer of the exposition, told Armenpress that the 'Education and Career Expo 2010' will involve the activity of the most important spheres of education and provide necessary information to the participants.

The expo is aimed at providing information to students and pupils about modern education and specialties, which are in popular demand, as well as promoting business ties between educational establishments and enterprises. Educational establishments, operating in Armenia and abroad, as well as international donor organizations will partake in the expo. The event will be held in assistance with the RA Education and Science Ministry. The general information sponsor is 'Viva Cell MTS'.

#### **16. Number of unemployed people decreased in Artsakh [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

As of 2010 November 1, the number of job seekers in the world is 3632, the 3393 of who are women. Three thousand 444 people (94,8% of the registered persons) have received a status of unemployed. The people registered are mainly residents of Stepanakert – 2950 people. Compared with the data of 2009 November 1, the number of the unemployed people has decreased by 13.

An official from the Employment Department of the working staff of the NKR Ministry of Social Welfare told Armenpress that the 342 out of the registered 3444 citizens get unemployment allowance, the 325 of who – women. Compared with the same period of the last year that index has decreased by 98.

As of 2010 November 1, 106 people have found job, the 80 of who – women. Compared with 2009, this index has decreased by 44.

Three disabled people make use of the program on salary compensation of non-competitive groups in labor market. As of 2010 November 1, financial support has been displayed to 50 doctors who are on business trip.

#### **17. Conference on Armenian-Turkish relations held in Yerevan [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**



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A one-day conference dedicated to the contemporary issues of Armenians in Turkey and new tendencies in the Armenian-Turkish relations was conducted today in Armenian National Library.

Director of the library David Sargsyan said Armenian-Turkish relations are one of the important issues the Armenian public is concerned with, thus it is necessary to raise its awareness in this sphere.

The conference launched with the report of Turkologist Ruben Melkonyan on the current situation of Armenians in Turkey. He divided Armenians of Turkey into four parts – official Armenians or the Armenian community consisting of 55 000-60 000 people settled in Istanbul, Malatia, Sebastia, Adana, Mussa Mount region who are mainly apostolic. “In the Musa Mount territory village Vakf completely populated by Armenians has been still preserved,” he said.

The next group according to him, are the Catholic Armenians, about 3500 people living in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. The number of protestant-evangelic Armenians is 500 they too live in Istanbul. “Currently many masked Armenian are returning to their roots but this process takes place in parallel with returning to protestant Christianity,” Ruben Melkonyan said. The Armenians of the last group are those who were forced to change their religion and their generations.

## SPORTS

### **18. Levon Aronyan winner of Mikhail Tal memorial international tournament [Armenpress, 11/15/10]**

Armenian grand master Levon Aronyan became the winner of the Mikhail Tal memorial international tournament ended in Moscow. In the final, 9th round, he beat Pavel Elyanov of Ukraine and gaining 5,5 points shared the 1-3 places with Sergey Karyakin of Russia and Shahriyar Mammadyarov of Azerbaijan but left them behind thanks to the high rating.

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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.*