



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, November 19, 2010

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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### POLITICS

1. **Massis Mailyan says Armenia and Azerbaijan not to adopt a breakthrough document connected with Artsakh issue within the framework of the OSCE Summit [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

Armenia and Azerbaijan will not adopt a breakthrough document connected with Artsakh issue within the framework of the OSCE Summit in Astana December 1-2 as the world powers and public of the each party have not created corresponding conditions for doing it, chairman of the NKR foreign policy and security public council Massis Mailyan said speaking with Armenpress.

According to him, the heads of the OSCE participant-states will more probably adopt a statement in favor of the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict within the framework of the Minsk group. As to the Azerbaijani military rhetoric, Mailyan said that if Azerbaijan really wants peaceful settlement of relations with the NKR and Armenia, the military rhetoric contradicts that aims.

"The Azerbaijani military threats must be treated seriously. The statements of the Azerbaijani side are fostered with anti-Armenian propaganda, destabilization of the situation on the line of contact and acquirement of military engineering. This country is openly getting prepared for a war. Armenia and Artsakh, using the potential of allies and Diaspora, must use preventive means to prevent the new aggression of Azerbaijan," Mailyan said.



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The latter positively assesses the fact that Armenia's authorities started responding to the statements of the Azerbaijani side as the absence of Armenia's response is accepted in Azerbaijan as a sign of weakness. Mailyan said the Artsakh government must also display activeness in this issue.

## **2. Edward Nalbandyan: New negotiations with Turkey on normalization of relations have not been held and are not being held [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

"New negotiations with Turkey on normalization of relations have not been held and are not being held," Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan said today at the National Assembly in response to the question of Gagik Melikyan connected with the statement of the President of Turkey Abdullah Gul that negotiations are ongoing with the Armenian side.

The minister said if the Turkish side is frank in its wish to normalize Armenian-Turkish relations, it must do a simple thing – ratify and implement the signed protocols without pre-conditions.

"It becomes so that Turkey finds our condition – to normalize relations without pre-conditions – unacceptable," Gagik Melikyan said. In response Minister Nalbandyan said that if it is unacceptable the process of normalization of relations will not only stay on place but will fail because of Turkey.

## **3. RA President's visit to Russian Federation over [Armenpress, 11/19/10]**

RA President Serzh Sargsyan finished his working visit to the Russian Federation and returned to Yerevan this evening. On the last day of his visit, the President met with a number of public and cultural figures of the Armenian community at the RA Embassy to Russia. The Presidential press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the President of Armenia congratulated those, who were granted the RA state awards for activity in various spheres, and handed the awards.

Armen Jigarkhanyan, USSR People's Artist, was awarded with Order of Honor on his 75th anniversary; for his notable investment in the strengthening of the Armenian-Russian cultural relations and age-long fruitful activity in the sphere of art. Margarita Simonyan, editor-in-chief of 'Russia Today' TV Company, was awarded with 'Movses Khorenatsi' Order for notable investment in the development of journalism and for high professionalism. Mikayel Soghoian, sculptor, was granted the title of Honored Painter.

After handing the awards, President Serzh Sargsyan presented the results of his working visit, which kicked off November 16. Within the framework of the official visit, President Serzh Sargsyan met with the RF President and Prime Minister. A number of issues, which have a great significance for Armenia, were discussed during the meetings. 'All the questions, we highlighted, were responded positively, and I want to assure you that now I return to Armenia with more confidence about future,' President Serzh Sargsyan said.

## **BUSINESS**

## **4. NKR participates in international tourism exhibition with separate pavilion [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

Karabakh has participated in the International Tourism Exhibition conducted November 8-11 in London with a separate pavilion. Head of the Tourism Development Department of the NKR government Sergey Shakhverdyan said in an interview with journalists that the Azerbaijani party this time, too, presented numerous complaints to the organizers of the exhibition, demanding not to let the Nagorno Karabakh Republic participate in the exhibition. "Those traditional complaints, which we have been witnessing in the last two years, did not give any positive result to the Azerbaijani party," Mr. Shakhverdyan said.

As for the exhibition, Artsakh has presented the NKR tourism resources and NKR as country of tourism attraction. Within the framework of the exhibition Sergey Shakhverdyan met with tourism ministers of several countries, during which issues on defense of local outgoing tourists visiting the given countries were discussed.

During the discussions an agreement was gained to visit those countries and participate in a number of international exhibitions to be organized there in 2011 January, March, October and November. "We want to get closely acquainted and apply the experience of those countries. The speech is about repair of rural traditional houses in rural communities and turning them into small tourism houses," Mr. Shakhverdyan said. At present there are 4 suchlike small tourism houses, the number of which does not meet the demand.



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The head of the NKR government-affiliated Tourism Development Department assured that one of their primary issues is the propaganda of Artsakh by international mass media.

An initial agreement with CNN TV Channel has already been obtained, the cooperation with which, according to Mr. Shakhverdyan, will start in the upcoming weeks.

The participation of Artsakh in the exhibition has been actively uncovered by British mass media, which Mr. Shakhverdyan highly appraised.

All the expenses of participating in the exhibition have been covered by the NKR state budget.

## **5. Armenian government intends to register 20-25% growth in the tourism sphere [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

Thanks to the Tatev tourism center the Armenian government intends to register 20-25% growth in the tourism sphere. Head of the Economy Ministry's Tourism and Territorial Development Department Mekhak Apresyan said at a news conference today that for presenting Tatev in the international market an agreement was signed with "Euronews" TV with which two five-minute long clips were broadcasted on the TV during one week.

"The clips were shown on different languages and were presenting Tatev cable way and the monastic complex. Besides, representatives of 25 mass media of the world were invited to Tatev," Mekhak Apresyan said, adding that such familiarizing visits were organized during previous years as well. This year the Armenian government released 50 million AMD from the state budget but the money for the visit of the representatives of 25 mass media and advertisement broadcasted by "Euronews" were released from the reserve budget.

"The broadcasting of 5-minute long clips cost 130 000 euros and the familiarizing visit of journalists 28 million AMD. These sums were provided from the reserve budget. It means that in case of having good programs additional money will be released," Mekhak Apresyan said.

## **6. Number of tourists growing in Artsakh [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

The number of tourists in Artsakh has grown by 45%. With the data of the 9 months of the running year the NKR government-affiliated Tourism Development Department has registered 45% growth of tourists compared with the same period of the last year.

Head of the NKR government-affiliated Tourism Development Department Sergey Shakhverdyan told Armenpress that such growth of tourists is conditioned by a number of programs implemented by the state, and by participation of Artsakh in international tourism exhibitions.

"The opening of Stepanakert airport will promote sharp growth of the number of Artsakh visitors. But this will make the country face serious issues; the infrastructures will resist such flow of tourists with difficulty. Works are already being carried out in that direction, in particular, the tasks of infrastructures connected with opening of the airport in regard to tourism sphere have been worked out and presented to the government," Mr. Shakhverdyan said.

Tourism information centers will open in Artsakh within the framework of the above-mentioned events. Such a center already works in Shushi, next year there will be one in Stepanakert as well. Temporary information centers will open in those settlements of Artsakh which have more visitors, and will work only during summer.

## **7. 600 Armenian websites participate in "Armnet Awards" web contest [Armenpress, 11/19/10]**

A conference on "from Outsourcing to Innovation" will be held December 4 within the framework of "Armnet Awards" 2010 all-Armenian internet web contest. The conference will be dedicated to development of internet technologies. Specialists both from Armenia and abroad will participate, including the representatives of the companies of "Opera", "Yandex", "YouTube", "Microsoft". The goal of the conference is to discuss and present ways of development of internet technologies, their application in different spheres of business.

An official from "SP Marketing Solutions" company told Armenpress that the public voting round of the contest has already launched. Now all the wishers may visit the official website of the contest and vote for the websites they prefer.

Over 600 Armenian websites from Armenia and Diaspora participate in the public voting, which will continue till November 30, after which, based on the voting results, the jury will select the best 8 websites in the nominations of "Design and Comfort", "Innovation", "Technical performance", "Content",



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"Year's Progress", "People's Choice", as well as there will be an award by "Orange" for the best WAP website. The website gathered the most points in all the nominations will get the main prize.

The goal of the contest is to reveal and award the best Armenian internet websites. It is conducted under the high patronage of the Armenian Minister of Economy.

## DIASPORA

### **8. U.S. Documents Reveal Pres. Bush's Duplicity on the Armenian Genocide [Noyan Tapan, 11/17/10] By Harut Sassounian, Publisher, The California Courier**

In a highly informative book, "Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and Century-long Struggle for Justice," Michael Bobelian has exposed important, but little known facts about the long history of attempts to get the Armenian Genocide recognized by the United States.

One of Bobelian's more notable revelations is the apparent contradiction between Vice President George H. W. Bush senior's promise to the Armenian-American community to acknowledge the Genocide after he is elected President and his administration's agreement with Turkey to block such an acknowledgment.

While running for President in 1988, Vice President George Bush issued the following statement: "The United States must acknowledge the attempted genocide of the Armenian people in the last years of the Ottoman Empire, based on the testimony of survivors, scholars, and indeed our own representatives at the time, if we are to ensure that such horrors are not repeated." Bush is the only Vice President who has made such a pledge on the Armenian Genocide.

After assuming the presidency in January 1989, however, Pres. Bush ignored his commitment on the Armenian Genocide, and actively tried to persuade the U.S. Congress not to recognize it. Within months of his election, Bush wrote to Senators Bob Dole and George Mitchell, and Congressmen Tom Foley, Richard Michel, Richard Gephardt, Janet Mullins, and Richard Lehman, informing them of his opposition to the pending congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide.

On April 20, 1990, Pres. Bush issued his only "Presidential Message" on the occasion of "Armenian Remembrance Day," without, however, using the term "Armenian Genocide." He spoke about "...the terrible massacres suffered in 1915-1923 at the hands of the rulers of the Ottoman Empire. The United States responded to the victims of the crime against humanity by leading international diplomatic and private relief efforts.... On this 75th anniversary of the massacres, I wish to join with Armenians and all peoples in observing April 24, 1990 as a day of remembrance for the more than a million Armenian people who were victims. I call upon all peoples to work to prevent future acts of inhumanity against mankind, and my comments of June 1988 represent the depth of my feeling for the Armenian people and the sufferings they have endured."

Over the years, analysts have offered different explanations as to why recent U.S. Presidents (except for Ronald Reagan) have not kept their promises to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Bobelian revealed that in 1987, a year before Vice President Bush made his promise to the Armenian-American community, the United States and Turkey had signed an extensive military and economic agreement, according to which the American government pledged to oppose any "inappropriate actions," such as the pending congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide.

During the official signing ceremony held at the State Department on March 16, 1987, Secretary of State George Shultz and Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu exchanged letters extending through December 1990 the bilateral Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement that had been in effect since March 29, 1980. According to this agreement, the United States made a commitment to provide high levels of military and economic support for Turkey. More significantly, Washington agreed to "vigorously oppose inappropriate actions which would be harmful to healthy U.S.-Turkish relations, to U.S.-Turkish military cooperation or to our efforts to provide security assistance to Turkey based on the needs of the Turkish Armed Forces."

When the 1980 agreement expired in 1985, the Turkish government cleverly dragged out the negotiations for its extension, while escalating its demands from the United States. After a series of diplomatic exchanges that lasted two full years, the Turkish side succeeded in extracting more and more concessions from the U.S., including the commitment to block congressional resolutions on the Armenian Genocide.

Vice President Bush must have known in 1988, when he made his deceptive promise on the Armenian Genocide, that the United States government had already signed an agreement with Turkey in 1987, pledging to "vigorously oppose inappropriate actions" that would damage U.S.-Turkish relations.



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After Pres. Reagan's Proclamation of April 22, 1981 and the two House resolutions adopted in 1975 and 1984 acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, the Turkish government had good reason to insist on language in the 1987 agreement to block any further acknowledgments of the Armenian Genocide.

The Turkish scheme worked! Breaking his pledge to the Armenian community, Pres. Bush successfully lobbied the Senate in 1990 to prevent the passage of a resolution on the Armenian Genocide.

## **9. NKR President rates high the role of compatriots in Russia in developing Karabakh [Armenpress, 11/17/10]**

On 16 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan together with President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan within the frameworks of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian fund's 2010 Telethon met representatives of the Russian philanthropists and entrepreneurs of Armenian origin in Moscow.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that In his speech President Sahakyan rated high the role our compatriots in Russia had played in developing Karabagh, underlining that now too he expected their active participation in solving a very important issue Artsakh faces – the problem of drinking water. According to Bako Sahakyan this issue has a crucial political and socioeconomic significance and providing solution to it would greatly benefit to the development and strengthening of the Artsakh Republic.

State, public and political figures of the Russian Federation, representatives of the Armenian Diaspora, officials from the two Armenian states partook at the meeting.

## **10. Turkish Foreign Ministry should remove lies from its website and issue apology [Noyan Tapan, 11/18/10] By Harut Sassounian**

Turkish officials have been misrepresenting the facts of the Armenian Genocide for years. Even though this is saddening and even sickening, it is not surprising. Wrongdoers usually cover up their guilt and proclaim their innocence. What is truly surprising is that the descendants of victims of the Armenian Genocide, having been accustomed to such Turkish distortions, no longer see the need to put up a vigorous fight against denialist "historians," politicians, diplomats, and reporters. Why is it that descendants of the Jewish Holocaust go to great lengths to counter denialist historians, neo-Nazis, and other revisionists, while Armenians seem to be oblivious to those who distort their own tragedy? Is it because they are simply tired of hearing the same old Turkish lies year after year or do they feel powerless to put an end to these distortions?

Earlier this year, the House Foreign Affairs Committee adopted a resolution on the Armenian Genocide by a slim 23-22 majority. Regardless of what excuses the 22 members came up with for voting against this resolution, the fact is that when the time came to stand up and acknowledge the truth, they did not have the moral fortitude to be counted among the righteous! Instead they chose to side with the liars, deniers, and mass murderers!

And what has been the Armenian reaction to the despicable behavior of these 22 members of Congress? No outrage was expressed by Armenians! Not a single Armenian official condemned these scoundrels in Congress. Where was the organized effort by Armenian-Americans to target for defeat the Congressmen who voted against the Armenian Genocide resolution and are running for reelection on November 2nd? Imagine what would have happened if a single member of Congress had voted against a resolution on the Holocaust! Would Israel's leaders and Jewish-Americans have remained silent? They would have rightly done everything in their power to ensure that such a member of Congress is not reelected!

The question is not whether the Armenian-American community is as influential or powerful as the Jewish-American community. Regardless of its actual political prowess, the Armenian community must mount a vigorous campaign to defeat its political opponents. Once word spreads in Congress that anyone who votes against the Armenian Genocide would be targeted for defeat, those immoral and spineless members of Congress would quickly conclude that denying the Genocide for a fistful of Turkish Liras is not in their own best interest!

Here is another blatant example of genocide denial that has gone unnoticed and unchallenged by Armenians and the international community. The Turkish Foreign Ministry's website includes countless distorted statements on the Armenian Genocide. The website provides deceptive responses to innocently-worded questions, such as: "What happened in 1915? What is the total number of the



Armenian deportees? Did all the Armenian deportees die? Is it a crime to describe the events of 1915 as 'genocide' in Turkey and are the ones whom (sic) argue this exposed to legal investigation?" On its website, the Turkish Foreign Ministry goes to absurd lengths in a vain attempt to make Turkey look good by claiming that "Turkey is the only country where the events of 1915 can be discussed in a free manner!"

The website also makes the false claim that "there is no one in Turkey now who has been tried or prosecuted due to the reason that he/she described the events of 1915 as 'genocide.'" The Turkish Foreign Ministry conveniently forgets that Armenian journalist Hrant Dink was tried and found guilty for using the word "genocide" in an interview. He met a worse fate than serving a jail term. He was shot and killed! Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk was also charged under the infamous Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code ("Insulting Turkishness") for stating that one million Armenians were killed! After intense international pressure, however, the charges against Pamuk were dropped, and subsequently reinstated! Many other Turkish journalists and writers have been taken to court for writing about the Armenian Genocide.

There should be a concerted effort by Armenian officials, Diaspora Armenians, and the international community, demanding that the Turkish government immediately remove those insulting lies from the Foreign Ministry's website and issue an apology to Armenians.

Until then, no Armenian official should have any contact or meetings with Turkish leaders. Just imagine if the German Foreign Ministry's website stated that the Holocaust never happened! Would Israel's leaders have carried on business as usual with Germany?

## **11. 10-15 thousand Armenians live in Hungary [Armenpress, 11/19/10]**

RA deputy Diaspora Minister Stepan Petrosyan received today Adam Sargsyan, chairman of Armenian autonomy of Hungarian parliament's forum of national and ethnic minorities, chairman of 'Diaspora' Armenian union of Hungary.

An official from the press and PR office of the RA Diaspora Ministry told Armenpress that Stepan Petrosyan greeted Adam Sargsyan and said he appreciates the Hungarian-Armenian community's efforts, directed to strengthening the relations with Armenia and Artsakh.

The Armenians live in Hungary since the 10-11th centuries. Today over 10000-15000 Armenians live in Hungary: many of them are Hungarian-Armenians, who came from Transylvania.

The deputy Diaspora Minister said he welcomes the activity of the 3 Armenian Sunday-schools, as well as the cultural center and social unions of Budapest. He said he appreciates that the activity of the establishments is directed to the preservation of the Armenian nation and that the community takes an active part in the projects, implemented by the Diaspora Ministry.

The two parties emphasized the necessity of self-organization of the Hungarian-Armenian community. They also reached an agreement to establish a coordination council of Armenian organizations in Hungary.

Adam Sargsyan expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and mentioned that 'Malkhas' club's September concert tour, dedicated to the anniversary of the Independence of Armenia, 'was a new impetus that promoted the renaissance of the Armenian spirit in the Hungarian-Armenian community'. Adam Sargsyan expressed gratitude to the RA Diaspora Ministry for the efforts to organize that unique concert.

## **12. The NKR President's meetings in the USA [Armenpress, 11/19/10]**

On 17 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan left for the United States of America on a working visit to participate in the organizational activities of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian fund's annual telethon.

On 18 November Bako Sahakyan met in Los Angeles representative of the Western USA Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Party (Dashnaksoutyun) Avetik Izmirlyan, the Central Committee's members Chris Guldjian and Varouzh Urfalyan, chair of the Armenian Relief Society of Western USA Aryusak Melkonyan, Hamazgayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society's Western USA regional chair Vigen Haboian and Homenetmen Western USA regional chairperson Garnik Abrahamyan.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that issues related to the Artsakh-Diaspora relations, socioeconomic situation in the NKR, the current stage and prospects of the Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict settlement were discussed during the meeting.



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The president noted the necessity of continuous strengthening the Motherland-Diaspora ties considering them among the most effective ways to solve problems the Armenian people and statehood face.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan and other officials partook at the meeting.

On the same day President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan visited Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church's Great House of Cilicia and met prelate of the Western Diocese Archbishop Moushegh Martirosyan, members of the Diocese's central executive and religious councils, representatives of local Armenian community.

The President rated high the role played by the Great House of Cilicia in preserving Armenian national identity in the Diaspora and strengthening its ties with the Motherland. The Head of the State expressed gratitude to the representatives of the Armenian community in assisting our republic noting that Artsakh always felt compassionate attitude of our compatriots from the Diaspora.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, members of the Artsakh Republic's delegation, consular general of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles Grigor Hovhannisyanyan, mayor of the Glendale city Ara Najarian, president of the United Armenian Fund, vice-president of the "Lincy" foundation Harout Sassounyan, philanthropists, public and political figures partook at the meeting.

### **13. Armenian Assembly of America joins "STAND" [Armenpress, 11/19/10]**

The Armenian Assembly of America has joined "STAND" coalition against genocides, which strives to stop genocides going on in Darfur and everywhere.

An official from the assembly told Armenpress that "STAND" which is translated as "struggle", is a student movement of Genocide Intervention Network. It is a national defensive group, which has been established in 2005 for purpose of mobilizing the first standing constituency fighting against genocides and stopping crimes committed all over the world.

## **ARTS**

### **14. Tigran Kocharyan: 'The festival of Azerbaijani films was condemned to failure' [Armenpress, 11/17/10]**

From the very start the festival of Azerbaijani films was condemned to failure, as it was not organized properly; at an appropriate moment, according to Tigran Kocharyan, blogger and expert. He said today at a meeting with journalists that the festival did not have any idea-base and frank peaceful disposition.

'The most peaceful statement in the recent period belongs to the RA President Serzh Sargsyan. Armenia needs such statements and not festivals of Azerbaijani films, which are a way to earn money,' Tigran Kocharyan said.

According to Jirayr Dadasyan, artistic director of the Mime Theatre, the festival was a good opportunity to learn the opponent and map out a strategy. He added that Azerbaijan is the party, which suffered defeat, and Armenia does not have that problem.

In answer to Jirayr Dadasyan's statement, Tigran Kocharyan said that one of the recent Azerbaijani films was about the tortures of Manvel Saribekyan, 20-years-old Armenian, who was killed in Azerbaijan.

Tigran Kocharyan informed that a number of anti-Armenian films by Azerbaijan were shown at Tekeyan Cultural Center earlier. 'The initiative was aimed at presenting the anti-Armenian moods in Azerbaijan; however the failed festival was just business,' Tigran Kocharyan said.

### **15. NKR President assigns to organize cultural events in liberated territories of Artsakh more frequently [Armenpress, 11/17/10]**

Upon the initiative of the Culture and Youth Affairs Ministry of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, 'Arpi' state junior ensemble and song and dance ensembles of Artsakh performed November 15 in Vardut, Goghtanik and Shalua communities of the region of Kashatagh with a concert program.

Lyudmila Sargsyan, head of NKR Culture and Youth Affairs Ministry's department of art and national creations, told Armenpress that the local schoolchildren of the regions, the ensembles visited, performed during the concerts, too.



Lyudmila Sargsyan said that such concerts in the liberated territories will be continuous and frequent, as President of Nagorno Karabakh Bako Sahakyan gave such an assignment to the department, headed by her, during a recent meeting with the employees of the Ministry.

## **16. Intellectual festival in Artsakh [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

The annual Artsakh Intellectual Festival will be conducted November 21 in Nagorno Karabakh Republic, at which the Armenian delegation headed by blogger Tigran Kocharyan will be present as well.

Head of the NKR Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs Tigran Atanesyan told Armenpress that teams consisting of 6 members will participate from different regions of Artsakh and 8 teams will be involved from Stepanakert. "Overall 15 teams will participate, among which there will also be teams of departments – of ministries, youth organizations, etc," Tigran Atanesyan said. The best three will be selected among the participant 15 teams, for who monetary awards and certificates are intended.

The festival is conducted on the initiative of the NKR Culture and Youth Affairs Ministry and of "What, Where, When" club of Artsakh. According to Tigran Atanesyan, the Ministry intends to award Tigran Kocharyan with an appreciation diploma and souvenir for outstanding contribution and for conducting the game for 2 years.

## **17. Exhibition dedicated to International Students' Day in Artsakh [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

An exhibition dedicated to International Students' Day opened today in the gallery of Stepanakert municipality. Chairman of Artists' Union of Artsakh Lenord Zakaryan told Armenpress that the exhibition has been organized by the efforts of the Artists' Union and gallery.

Nearly 60 works of three Artsakh educational establishments – Artsakh State University, "Gyurjyan" Applied Art Institute and Shushi State College after A. Khachatryan are exhibited at the exhibition.

"We always keep the novice painters in the center of attention and exhibit their works through the efforts of the union. This time we decided to combine the works of the 3 educational establishments and organize a joint exhibition," Mr. Zakaryan said.

According to the chairman of the Artists' Union, the majority of the paintings of the participants are in realistic style, and do not vary from each other very much, the reason of which is the lack of experience.

The exhibition will be open till November 26.

## **18. Ruben Gevorgyants says Armenian cinema to surprise us [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

This year the autumn in Armenia was highlighted with numerous and various cultural events and festivals, according to Ruben Gevorgyants, chairman of the Armenian Union of Cinematographers. He said today at a meeting with journalists that Armenia is one of the unique countries, which has a plenty of film festivals.

'I am against holding such a great number of festivals; however all of them help to make the Armenian culture famous in all over the world. The festivals give an opportunity to foreigners to come to Armenia and get acquainted with our country,' Ruben Gevorgyants said.

He added that there is some notable activity in today's film industry. 'I think that in the near future the Armenian cinema will take its clear steps and surprise us,' Ruben Gevorgyants stated.

He informed that he is shooting a documentary, titled 'Planet of Women', which will be presented to the spectators January, 2011. 'Due to this film we tend to show that women have a deep individuality, which is even deeper than that of men's,' Ruben Gevorgyants said.

## **19. This year Vahan Tekeyan annual award to have 9 nominations [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

This year the Vahan Tekeyan annual award will have 9 nominations, according to Hakob Avetikyan, member of central administration of the 'Tekeyan' cultural union. He said today at a meeting with journalists that prizes will be given for the following nominations: 'Fiction', 'Music', 'Painting', 'Radio and TV', 'Sculpture', 'Theatre' and 'Bets Publication in 'Azg' Daily'.

Hakob Avetikyan informed that the 'Tekeyan' union has been holding the award since 1991. In the early stage the award had 3-4 nominations. He added that over 5000 applications have been received during the 19 years.



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'The award is aimed at promoting our authors for that they, inspired by the support, publish better creations,' he said.

Each nomination has its benefactor, who provides financial means for! the award. The results of the award will be concluded January, 2011. The prizes will be awarded February, 2011.

## **20. NKR Cultural and Youth Affairs Minister meets with heads of Artsakh's youth organizations [Armenpress, 11/19/10]**

Narine Aghabalyan, minister of cultural and youth affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, met today with the heads of youth organizations, operating in Artsakh. A variety of issues of the youth sphere of Artsakh were discussed during the meeting. Narine Aghabalyan stated that the Ministry will carry out a sociological survey till the end of the year to get acquainted with the urgent issues of the youth of Artsakh.

The Minister requested the support of youth establishments. After the conclusion, the results are intended to be classified in accordance with their importance. Narine Aghabalyan said the Ministry will map out its future policy in the direction of solution of those issues.

Taking into account the fact that the majority of the youth projects of Artsakh are being implemented only in Stepanakert, next year the Ministry will open regional youth centers, which will implement concrete projects and ensure participation of the regions' youth in numerous projects of Stepanakert. At the end of the meeting, the Minister said such meetings will be regular, as they give an opportunity to be informed about the issues, existing in the sphere, and to make interesting offers for solution of the issues.

## **21. British EMI made donation for restoration of Gyumri Musical School [Armenpress, 11/19/10]**

The charitable foundation of the British EMI Record Studio has contributed to restoration project of Gyumri Musical School N 6. An official from the foundation told Armenpress that EMI Music Sound Foundation has transferred 3180 thousand USD to special account, which is opened for purpose of restoration of the school. Paul McCartney, George Martin, Yocko Ono, Cliff Richard and Tina Turner are among the trustees of the foundation.

The program on repair of Gyumri Musical School N 6 is implemented with the support of the Armenian President and government.

Rock-musicians Ian Gillan (Deep Purple) and Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) are the active participants of the project.

This October Ian Gillan, Toni Iommi, John Lord (formerly Deep Purple), Nicko McBrain (Iron Maiden) and Jason Newsted (formerly Metallica) have recorded the song of "My Mind", and the revenue received from it will be sent to the foundation for restoration of Gyumri School. This March Ian Gillan has given two charitable concerts in the State Philharmonic Orchestra of Armenia in Yerevan.

Two hundred fifty thousand USD is necessary for construction of the new building of the school, 80 000 has already been gathered.

## **RELIGION**

### **22. Events on 390th Anniversary of Construction of 'Surb Astvatsatsin' Church of Silistra Kick off [Armenpress, 11/17/10]**

The row of events on the 390th anniversary of 'Surb Astvatsatsin' Church – the oldest Armenian church in Bulgaria – kicked off yesterday upon the initiative of the Armenian community to Bulgaria and Municipality of Silistra.

The 'Daily Life and Holidays of the Armenians' photo exhibition of Julian Angelov – orientalist, journalist and photographer – was held on the same day.

An official from the press, information and PR department of RA Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that Alexander Sabanov, mayor of Silistra, Neli Stoilova, deputy chairman of the community council, Hasmik Dashtoyan, adviser of the RA Embassy to Bulgaria, and a number of representatives of the Armenian community to Bulgaria were present at the opening ceremony.

In her speech, Neli Stoilova expressed gratitude to the 'small, yet influential and organized' Armenian community of Silistra and said that the Armenian community promotes the strengthening of the bilateral relations.

The representatives of the Armenian embassy and community met with the Mayor of Silistra the next day at the Municipality. The prospects of making the cooperation between Silistra and Hrazdan more



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active were discussed during the meeting. The importance of organizing mutual visits of the official delegations of the two communities was discussed as well.

## **23. Mother See condemns the statement of Georgian Deputy Minister [Armenpress, 11/19/10]**

On October 17, during a conference on “The Issues and Prospects of Armenian Community of Tbilisi”, Deputy State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration Elene Tevdoradze stated that the Armenian Apostolic Church in Georgia is the branch of Holy Etchmiadzin, and Georgia will not give a state status and will not state register the Diocese of Georgian Armenians.

Press Secretary of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin Vahram Melikyan told Armenpress that the statement of the deputy minister is condemnable, as it is obvious that the person who made such a statement has no idea about historical truths.

“Suchlike approach can be typical of totalitarian country and not of democratic one, while Georgia pretends to become a democratic country,” Vahram Melikyan said, adding that suchlike statements contradict all kinds of international acts. He also noted that suchlike position of Tevdoradze does not stem from the principles of democratic policy, for it encroaches the religious rights.

Armenian Apostolic Church has been working since the first half of the 4th century, when Christianity was adopted in Georgia as state religion. From that period on the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Georgian-Armenians has been working according to the constitution of Georgia of all times.

## **SOCIAL**

## **24. RA President Serzh Sargsyan partakes in annual gala night of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund [Armenpress, 11/17/10]**

RA President Serzh Sargsyan, who is on a working visit to Moscow, was present today at the ‘Hayastan’ All-Armenian Fund’s annual gala night, which was also attended by President of Nagorno Karabakh Bako Sahakyan, members of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, as well as Armenian businessmen, residing in Russia.

The Presidential press service told Armenpress that in his address, the President of Armenia and President of the Board of Trustees of the Fund spoke about the activities of the Fund and underscored that the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund is one of those unique establishments, which has been able to implement vital projects for years, and especially carry the mission of uniting people around an idea.

According to the President, the Fund heightens ‘the trust and confidence toward our own strength and, in a larger sense, toward our future’. “We have to thoroughly build and rebuild our home. The residents of that home must have military, legal and social protection. We must go on getting stronger, manifesting solidarity of ten million Armenians. There is no other way to manifest national dignity,” the President of Armenia said. Serzh Sargsyan also touched upon the NK issue and spoke about maturing of Nagorno Karabakh as a state, about belligerent calls from the neighboring country and our defense capabilities, noting that participants of the event often ask the President to address these questions.

“My message to you is very clear-cut: Nagorno Karabakh is a consummate state, which is getting stronger day by day. Moreover, it’s a much more democratic state than neighboring Azerbaijan. The negotiations over the peaceful regulation of the issue go on and the sooner Azerbaijan realizes that there is no alternative to the recognition of the NK’s right to self-determination, the sooner negotiations will end. As for our defense capabilities, it is explicit: we are strong, we are stronger than ever, and grow stronger by day,” President Serzh Sargsyan stated.

## **25. Armenian PM partakes at the opening of new building of YSUAC [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan participated in the opening of new building of the Yerevan State Architecture and Construction University the construction works of which launched in 2007. The prime minister walked across the building, got acquainted with the conducted work.

The new building consists of recreation part and 3 auditorium halls as well as chess club. The auditoriums are furnished with interactive blackboards, screens, air conditioners, chess tables, etc.

The specialized auditoriums are named after renowned architecture, academician Jim Torosyan. The chess club is named after world champion Tigran Petrosyan.

The new building of the university was projected by the employees of the university and assisted by members of the Armenian Constructors Union. Totally 180 million AMD was spent on the construction.



## **26. International Day of Students celebrated at YSU [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

Today Yerevan State University celebrated the International Day of Students and held the 'Student 2010' award ceremony. The event was organized by the YSU Students Council.

According to Aram Simonyan, rector of YSU, RA NAS associate member, today's students should be happy, as they study in the conditions of independence.

'It is this generation that creates the path of independence. Only in case it goes on acting with the same spirit, we all will reach the desirable destination – peace, happiness and wealth,' Aram Simonyan said. He added that the supreme idea of independent homeland become an ordinary phenomenon for students. The rector wished the students meaningful future and personal happiness.

Tsolak Akopyan, chairman of YSU Students Council, informed that it is the second year the 'Student-2010' award ceremony has been held. He added that a student, noted for his/her academic achievements, public and cultural activity, is selected from each faculty. He said that the best student of each faculty is selected with 2 stages. The students, who displayed best results, were selected for the second stage.

'Today the students have a plenty of issues, but through their unity they can achieve all their goals,' Tsolak Akopyan said.

The winners of the 'Student 2010' were awarded with a medal by the YSU Students Council and a diploma. The Students Council also awarded the winners of inner-faculty competitions; winners of the RA President's annual educational prize for the IT sphere; medal-winners of the annual math Olympiad of students in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria; as well as university recruits and the students, noted for their public and cultural activity at the university.

## **27. Computer training classes for teachers and pupils of Stepanakert [Armenpress, 11/18/10]**

Computer training classes launched today for the teachers and pupils of Stepanakert in the town's Information Technology Development Center by the "Education Foundation" of the International Technology University.

Chairman of the "Education Foundation" Vladimir Grigoryan said first it was intended to just help teachers and pupils use the internet but during the works it became clear that the majority of the teachers do not have elementary computer skills and it was decided to start from zero.

"These classes will be of continuative nature and will be organized twice in a week for each group," Grigoryan said.

Four schools of Stepanakert applied to participate in the classes.

## **28. Armenian secondary schools not to have graduates in 2011 [Armenpress, 11/19/10]**

Armenian Ministry of Education and Science has once again informed pupils of secondary schools and their parents that Armenian secondary schools will not have graduates in 2011.

An official from the Ministry told Armenpress that the entrance exams of higher educational establishments will be organized only for the graduates of previous years.

## **SPORTS**

### **29. Levon Aronyan is the 3rd [Armenpress, 11/17/10]**

Armenian grand master Levon Aronyan is currently ranked the 3d in the rating list of FIDE having 2805,1 points. The first is Magnus Karlsen of Norway with 2812 followed by Vishvanatan Anand from India with 2808 points. The fourth is Russian Vladimir Kramnik who has 2786,2 points.

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