



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, December 28, 2010

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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AGBU NEWS

1. Blessing Ceremony at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin [Hayastani Hanrapetutium, 12/28/10]

On December 27, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, presided over the blessing ceremony on the occasion of the renovation of the old "Veharan" (Patriarchate) building of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. The old patriarchate was first renovated in 1958 by the late Catholicos Vazgen I.

As the Press Office of the Mother See informed the renovation and reconstruction of the building is carried out thanks to the benevolence of the meritorious sons of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Mr. Berge Setrakian and his wife Mrs. Vera Setrakian. The reconstruction and renovation is carried out by "Horizon-95" LLC headed by Gagik Galstian.

At the end of the ceremony His Holiness spoke about the reconstruction process, which has revealed different construction layers and various buildings constructed in different ages. Excavations and thorough examinations proved that these constructions date back to 7-9th and 12-13th centuries. His Holiness announced that they will be preserved and that the old "Veharan" will maintain its ancient historical-architectural value and appearance. After the renovation, the Patriarchate will continue functioning as a museum.

Present at the ceremony were Archbishop Tatev Sargsyan, Bishop Paren Avetikian, Holy See Chancellor Bishop Arshak Khachatrian, Bishop Artak Tigranian, Head of the interchurch relations department Bishop Hovakim Manoukian, Holy See congregates and officials.

2. Helping the children of the Gyumri F. Nansen orphanage [Azg, 12/25/10]

A fundraising evening to help the children of the Gyumri F. Nansen orphanage was organized recently at the initiative of Dr. Chuck Hajinian and with the participation of representatives of the Armenian community of Wisconsin and AGBU friends. Pillows, sheets and other bed clothing for the orphanage children were purchased with 6,000 USD raised during the evening by about 60 guests, who



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committed themselves to continuing the fundraising event in favor of the Homeland. In phase 2 of the project sportswear and shoes were purchased for the children of the same orphanage.

The AGBU Armenian Representation personnel visited Gyumri and handed over the purchased goods to the orphanage children. The administration and children of the orphanage expressed their gratitude to our Armenian-American compatriots and the AGBU.

POLITICS

3. Bako Sahakyan partook at a solemn event dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the ARF [Noyan Tapan, 12/26/10]

On 23 December President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan partook at a solemn event dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Party, held in the Stepanakert Palace of youth and culture.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, chairman of the National Assembly Ashot Ghoulyan, premier Ara Haroutyunyan and other officials were present at the event.

4. Artak Davtyan: Armenia's foreign policy 2010 can be defined as realistic [Armenpress, 12/27/10]

Armenia's foreign policy 2010 can be defined as realistic, member of NA Armenian Republican Party faction Artak Davtyan said today at a meeting with journalists, adding the OSCE summit in Astana was among this year's most important foreign political events.

"It was noted in Astana once more that Nagorno Karabakh conflict must be regulated on the basis of three basic principles, which are the territorial integrity, self-determination right of people and non-application of force and its threat," Mr. Davtyan said, adding that it was voiced on international level once more, about which the Armenian party has been speaking already for a long time. Referring to Armenian-Turkish relations, the parliamentarian stressed that the position of the Armenian party in the issue of suspending the Armenian-Turkish relations at the beginning of the year was fully comprehended by international community.

The parliamentarian also spoke of the information war, noting that during this year the Azerbaijani and Turkish lobby and finances originated a number of anti-Armenian resolutions, particularly in the United Nations, but they did not have success by the efforts of the Armenian diplomacy.

5. Artak Shakaryan: 'The H. Res. 252 is neither the start, nor the end of our claim' [Armenpress, 12/27/10]

'The H.Res.252 is neither the start, nor the end of our claim,' Turkologist Artak Shakaryan said today in an interview with Armenpress.

He says Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the US House of Representatives, would remain in the history of the US as the only political figure, who acted against her political party, but stood for the protection of the historical truth; however she did not do that.

'Of course, it will be difficult to make such a resolution be adopted at the next-convocation House, in which the Republicans will play a major role, as the party is for close relations with Turkey. We should realize that in this period the process is of more importance to us than the result,' Artak Shakaryan said.

He added that due to the resolution campaign, the issue of the Armenian Genocide was in focus of the international mass media and thus more people had the opportunity to learn about it.

'The Armenian lobbying organizations of the US act in a wonderful way with their resources. Their main and probably the only resource is the Armenian voter,' Artak Shakaryan noted.

6. Hayk Demoyan: If normalization process of Armenian-Turkish relations resumes, a new document must be put at the table [Armenpress, 12/28/10]

The Armenian-Turkish protocols and the normalization process of bilateral relations is already accomplished, even if such a process resumes in near future, then a new document must be put at the table, Director of Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Hayk Demoyan said at today's concluding press conference, adding that because of non-adequate behavior of Turkey the devalued documents cannot appear a basis for some further process.



According to Hayk Demoyan, the Armenian-Turkish protocols and suspension of the normalization process of relations was predictable, logical, and stemmed from Turkey's behavior. "We have registered various such episodes in Armenian-Turkish history. In this case it was exclusive, as an attempt of establishing interstate relations was made, the impetus and source of which were given from official Yerevan," he pointed out, adding that Turkey expected additional bonuses from those protocols.

7. Ruben Melkonyan: 'Turkey's Foreign Policy is in Skids' [Armenpress, 12/28/10]

Turkey's whole diplomatic corps is engaged in preventing adoption of resolutions and discussion on the Armenian Genocide at the parliaments of various states, according to Ruben Melkonyan, Turkologist. He said today in an interview with Armenpress that Turkey became a prisoner of its own foreign policy. 'In this process the Turkish side always makes some political concessions, which causes worries in Turkey.

In this context Turkey is in skids now,' the Turkologist said. The fact that the H. Res. 252 on Armenian Genocide was not involved in the full session agenda of the House of Representatives was a great loss for the US as well, as the latter tends to show to the world that it is true to democratic values.

As to the efforts of the Armenian lobby organizations, Ruben Melkonyan says despite the fact those organizations had failures for several times, they acted attentively. 'In the process of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide, the recognition by an extremely powerful state, such as the US, is quite important, and in this context, the efforts of our lobbyists cannot be underestimated,' the Turkologist said.

8. 2010 Actions of ARF Directed to Socioeconomic, National and Democratic Issues [Armenpress, 12/28/10]

The faction of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation defined its target directions in the current year and directed its activity to socioeconomic, national, as well democracy issues, according to Ara Nrnayan, NA deputy, member of the NA standing committee on economic affairs, member of the ARF faction. He said today at a meeting with journalists that 2 conferences were conducted during the year.

The first conference was dedicated to socioeconomic issues, which were concluded in a separate guide, which 'will be of great help to those, who are interested in the sphere'. The second conference was dedicated to issues on democracy. Ara Nrnayan informed that they also published a research and analysis on the budget of the next year. He added that the analysis on last year's budget mainly corresponded to their forecasts.

The speaker mentioned that the materials, published by the RA agriculture and economic competitiveness state committee, on its own activity were studied and a deep analysis was made on the shortcomings, connected to the food sphere. 'Next year we intend to present separate researches on several spheres, in particular the spheres of milk purveyance, milk production, mining industry and lithosphere, as well as demography,' Ara Nrnayan said. He added that except for those analyses, they will present concrete offers.

9. Vahan Dilanyan: In 2010 Serzh Sargsyan strengthened the international view of Armenia's being a trustworthy and stable partner [Armenpress, 12/28/10]

In 2010 Serzh Sargsyan managed to bring clarity to Armenia's foreign policy. The President strengthened the international view of Armenia's being a trustworthy and stable partner, Chairman of the Political Developments Research Centre Vahan Dilanyan told Armenpress, adding that the inner-political stability strengthened last year brought an additional support to the foreign political field. "Armenia showed the world that its constructive and reserved behavior can also be stable-attacking and rough.

This was expressed both in the Artsakh issue and in regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations. The very important decision of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on suspending the ratification of Armenian-Turkish protocols and simultaneously not standing back from the regulation process is especially noteworthy, which was really highly appreciated by corresponding international institutions involved in the process," he said, also highlighting Armenian President's speech on judicial recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

"It was an impetus to the OSCE with new quality to ponder over the own decision of not condemning the aggressive and war-inclined behavior of Azerbaijan and to the Azerbaijan to reconsider the own uncompromising position," the political specialist said. Mr. Dilanyan expressed hope that the qualitatively new edgings of Armenia's foreign policy outlined this year will smoothly develop next year.



“Stable-attacking and rough manner of behavior should be developed in foreign policy 2011, for this is the demand of the foreign and home political challenges our country faces,” the Chairman of Political Developments Research Centre said.

BUSINESS

10. President Serzh Sargsyan receives representatives of business community of Armenia [Armenpress, 12/27/10]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan organized today a reception of representatives of the business community of Armenia on New Year and Christmas. The President congratulated them on the holidays and wished all the success.

The Presidential press service told Armenpress that in his congratulation address the President said:

‘Dear businessmen, ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate you on the New Year and Christmas. This year was significant with the target work, directed to overcoming of the consequences of the global financial-economic crisis. I mean not only the Government’s efforts, but also the joint efforts of our businessmen. The fact that under such difficult conditions we managed to stabilize the situation and ensure some economic growth inspires hope.

The crisis brought an indescribably great harm to the world economy and first of all it was reflected with the drastic decline in economic growth and employment rates. The high level of unemployment became a real evil for states and governments. Though the phase of overcoming the crisis and stable recovery has already started, the world economy’s post-crisis model is not fully clear-cut yet.

Yes, the world recovers from the greatest pain of the 21st century. Our country overcame the first and most dangerous wave of the global financial-economic crisis without any serious shock. However the second wave of the crisis delivered a severe blow to our country: decline was registered in almost all the branches, financial streams, volume of investments were reduced drastically and exportation markets stopped feeding our economy. The crisis made us be more cautious and at the same time courageous. It made us estimate our old and reliable friends and find new ones.

It made us launch a daily struggle for preserving the business from collapse and strain our muscles for not allowing any reduction or delay in budget salary or pensions. It made us withstand an economic winter, but keep on drafting spring projects. The financial economic crisis has changed and goes on changing the world’s economy model. The world will not be in the same world, as it was before the crisis.

We will not live or act the way we did before autumn, 2008. Life will not allow us. However this does not mean that we will live worse. No! We will just think and act in another way. I think we will have another occasion to speak about this issue. Dear businessmen, at the moment of common danger we managed to withstand the difficulties with joint efforts. The action style of close collaboration with the Government will be more active in 2011. We all realize that the next year will be a year of persistent work.

It must be a year of full recovery, deepening of intensions of economy diversification, as well as a year of new and creative steps under new conditions. I wish you all the success in your activity of the upcoming year. All in all, your success is the success of ours and our economy. Once again I congratulate you and wish you good festive mood and wish health, happiness, warmth, prosperity to your families. Let God grant you with your families’ support in the development of your business and, consequently, in the development of our homeland. Thank you! Once again I congratulate you, your relatives and friends’.

DIASPORA

11. Armenian American benefactor Vahe Karapetian was awarded the Gold Medal of the RA Ministry of Diaspora [Noyan Tapan, 12/26/10]

Armenian American benefactor, member of the Advisory Board of the RA Ministry of Diaspora Vahe Karapetian was awarded the Gold Medal of the RA Ministry of Diaspora and is celebrating his 70th birthday anniversary today. In her congratulatory message, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan mentioned that Vahe Karapetian was awarded the Gold Medal for his contribution to nation-building; his patriotic, benevolent actions in Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora; his great contribution to preservation of the Armenian identity and the development of the Armenia-Diaspora partnership, as well as on the occasion of his 70th birthday anniversary. “You are confidently continuing the road of benevolence, piety



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and patriotism paved by the worthy Armenians of the Diaspora. You are dedicated and faithful to fulfilling the Armenian nation's big dreams," as stated in the minister's letter addressed to Vahe Karapetian.

In 1974, Vahe Karapetian helped built the St. Sargis Church in Hollywood. Among his striking benevolent actions are the construction of the four-story building of the "Rose and Alex Pilibos" School; his participation in the establishment of a Department of Armenian Studies at UCLA; the establishment of the Goris-Stepanakert road construction firm (the firm has been renovating and improving roads through the benefactor's funding since 2002); his participation in the construction of Amaras and the North-South highway of Nagorno-Karabakh; his 500,000 dollar donation of cars and equipment to the RA Police; funding for the concert tour of "Voices of Artsakh" children's choir in America and his large-scale donations during the annual telethons organized by the "Hayastan" All Armenian Fund.

Vahe Karapetian has established non-governmental organizations called for awakening and revealing Armenians' national awareness in the U.S. and Armenia. Vahe Karapetian's television program called "Batsahaytum" (Revelation) introduced the Armenian American community to Armenian national values in order to keep the spirit of the Armenian nation at a high level.

ARTS

12. Winter Festival to launch [Armenpress, 12/27/10]

"Winter Festival Armenia 2010" will kick off tomorrow – December 25. The festival is implemented on the initiative of "Kanachastan" NGO and "DEEM Communications" company already for the 4th year uninterruptedly. Program Coordinator of "Kanachastan" NGO Eduard Levanyan told Armenpress that the festival will start with a winter parade – from the territory of Yerevan municipality it will move to the Lovers' Park, where the conduction of the main events of the festival is intended.

"We can single out the expo-contest of nature protection New Year trees, which are made from processed materials; they will have no artificial decoration. There will be a contest of the exhibited works and the author-organizations of the best trees will get prizes," Mr. Levanyan said. Musical Days, a winter fair, games, a meeting with Santa Claus, reading of fairytales and "Silver and Golden Soiree" are intended within the framework of "Winter Festival Armenia 2010". The latter is the only event of the festival, whose entrance is not free.

13. Rock festival dedicated to establishment of Armenian Rock Association [Armenpress, 12/27/10]

A rock festival was held December 26 at Gabriel Sundukyan National Academic Theater, dedicated to establishment of Armenian Rock Association. Chairman of the Trustees Council of the association, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Armenian Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan, Armenian Economy Minister Tigran Davtyan, and cultural-public figures were present at the event.

Nine famous rock groups gave a concert during the festival. Chairman of the Armenian Rock Association Vardan Grigoryan noted that the rock bands which are members of the Armenian Rock Association participate in it. "The association will be an open structure, and new bands may affiliate in near future. Our doors are open in front of them," he noted, adding that the goal of conduction of the festival is the increase of interest in music in wide stripes of society.

Mr. Grigoryan said that after some period of time an all-Armenian rock festival will be also conducted with participation of Diaspora-Armenian musicians. Mr. Grigoryan noted that up to now the festival has been funded through the help of philanthropists, but the best variant will be its financing by the income received from the concert. The festival was conducted with the support of the Armenian Prime Minister.

14. A number of Hovhannes Tumanyan's handwritings issued for the first time [Armenpress, 12/27/10]

"Hovhannes Tumanyan and Mistress Mariam" collection of letters has been issued on the initiative of Hovhannes Tumanyan Museum. The handwritings of the great poet have been published for the first time. Director of Tumanyan Museum Narine Tukhikyan told Armenpress that the collection of letters reveals the writer's attitude and opinion about women. The book also presents the mistress's recollections about Hovhannes Tumanyan, some parts of which have been published for the first time, too.



“The collection of letters enables to penetrate into the depth of the Armenian genius, to understand what he felt and experienced during different situations of life. On the whole the book presents the letters of the all-Armenian poet and cultural-public figure, philanthropist, great patriot Mrs. Tumanyan from 1898 to 1919, unfortunately with some interruptions, as many letters have not been kept for different reasons,” Narine Tukhikyan said. This year is the 140th anniversary of Mistress Mariam Tumanyan.

15. Winners of “Exhibition of One Work” to be given silver medals [Armenpress, 12/28/10]

The results of “Exhibition of One Work” contest conducted within the framework of events dedicated to 2150th anniversary of Tigran the Great have been summed up. Co-Chair of the Union of the World Armenian Painters Ghazar Mirzoyan told Armenpress that the Armenian Prime Minister will hand Silver Medal after Vardges Surenyants to the winners of the 4 nominations on December 29.

The commission has selected only the 4 among the 84 participants with close, confidential voting.

According to the co-chair of the Union of the World Armenian Painters, nearly 15 works from the presented works concerned Tigran the Great, the other were on different themes. “Exhibition of One Work” opened December 1 at Armenian National Gallery. The items found from Tigranakert and several artifacts on Tigran the Great kept in Armenian History Museum were exhibited as well.

16. RA People’s Artist Kim Yeritsyan Passed Away [Armenpress, 12/28/10]

Kim Yeritsyan, outstanding Armenian actor, RA People’s Artist, passed away December 26 at the age of 80. An official from the ad-hoc state committee on organization of Kim Yeritsyan’s funeral told Armenpress that the artist’s civil funeral rites will be conducted at 12:00-14:00, December 29 in Komitas chamber music hall of Yerevan. The funeral will be conducted at the city pantheon of Yerevan. Kim Yeritsyan was born 1930 in Tbilisi.

He moved to Yerevan 1951. He graduated from the artistic-theatrical institute of Yerevan in 1957. From 1955 to 1973 he worked at the Paronyan music comedy theatre. From 1973 to 2006 he was one of actors of the Ghaplanyan state drama state. His style of performance is unique as it unites features of both dramatic and comedic genres. Kim Yeritsyan was a brilliant cinema actor.

His roles in ‘Chaos’, ‘Lipstick N4’, ‘Ground and Gold’, ‘Nvagakhmbi tghanery (Orchestra Guys)’ films are well-known. During his creative life the prominent actor played more than 100 roles. Kim Yeritsyan was awarded 2009 with the title of the RA People’s Artist for services to the Armenian theatre. On the day of his 80th anniversary the famous actor was awarded with the RA culture ministry’s Gold Medal.

SOCIAL

17. Serzh Sargsyan partakes in YSU Council’s Year-End Session [Armenpress, 12/27/10]

Serzh Sargsyan, president of Armenia, chairman of the Council of Yerevan State University, partook today in the year-end session of the YSU Council. The Presidential press service told Armenpress that before the session the RA President toured in the educational laboratories of the YSU faculty of natural sciences, which were supplied with up-to-date equipments this year.

The equipments were acquired within the framework of the three-month program, created at the suggestion of the President during a 2009 session of the YSU Council. According to the program, purchases will be made each year for acquiring of full laboratories and updating of the equipments of the existing ones. During the YSU Council the rector’s office report on the 2009-2010 educational activity was discussed and approved. The preliminary calculation report on the 2010 financial expenses and revenue was approved as well. The project of the charter (new edition) of ‘Yerevan State University’ State Non Commercial Organization and the offers on the charter project were approved as well.

President Serzh Sargsyan mentioned that during the year some work has been implemented; however it cannot be considered satisfying. He mentioned that there is still great work to be implemented for ‘making us be proud of the knowledge, which gives Yerevan State University’. ‘I think we must be able to compare our education with education of European standards. In case we say that we ensure such education, we can be satisfied with what we are doing.

However this does not mean that nothing was done, nobody did his/her job or there is no any progress. I see some progress,’ the Head of the State said. The President also spoke about the social projects, which were implemented 2010. ‘I am happy that during this period it was possible to solve some



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social issues and I am happy that in 2011, 315 workers of YSU – 315 families – can say that they have their own apartments.

They managed to participate; they believed in our ideas and cooperated with us in the implementation of such a project. We continue those projects and we will implement them in a republican level,' RA President Serzh Sargsyan said.

18. Serzh Sargsyan: The passing year was quite efficient from the viewpoint of the work of mass media [Armenpress, 12/28/10]

On the occasion of the holidays of the New Year and Christmas Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan invited the representatives of mass media to the presidential residence. Presidential press service told Armenpress that congratulating the journalists and representatives of mass media on the upcoming holidays, Serzh Sargsyan said: "The passing year was quite efficient from the viewpoint of your work.

The year was also significant for healthy political debate, and very often representatives of our mass media were the active participants of the debate. Many mass medias managed to fulfill their mission with dignity and not to become a tool for solution of some issues. I wish that in the upcoming year our journalists do not need a big courage for publicly voicing about any important issue. I look upon you not only as professionals, but as standard of maturity of our whole society.

I want to stress once again that we do not want to conceal the flaws existing in the state system or society, and in that issue we still need your support. We need honest and unbiased work, in order Armenia's society, the whole state system, different structures and figures manage to see their true image in the objective mirror of information. We should continue to stand up for political tolerance, mutual respect, dialogue of different, even contradictory forces and cooperation.

Falsification, instigation and labeling hinder the dialogue. That is why I call to be unbiased and comprehensive while fulfilling your professional commitments. The integral and objective image of Armenian reality is precious not only for the present moment but for future as well. Dear journalists, I congratulate all Armenian journalists and employees of our mass media on behalf of you, and simultaneously express gratitude for the implemented work.

I am sure that 2011 will be a year of cooperation, development and progress. Let the New Year bring success to your works and initiatives and happiness to your families. Happy New Year and Merry Christmas!"

SPORTS

19. President Serzh Sargsyan participated at the meeting of the Council of the Chess Federation [Armenpress, 12/27/10]

President Serzh Sargsyan participated at the meeting of the Council of the Federation The President of Armenia, Chairman of Armenia's Chess Federation Serzh Sargsyan attended today the closing ceremony of the Henrik Gasparian Chess and Checkers Tournament dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the School of Young Olympians. During the ceremony, the winners of the tournament were awarded with Cups, Diplomas, and Commemorative Medals.

The ceremony was followed by the meeting of the Council of the Federation which was chaired by the Chairman of the Council Serzh Sargsyan. In the framework of the agenda, the participants discussed and approved the bylaws of the 2011 official competitions, which include 71st and 72nd national Championships, 66th and 67th Women's Championships, Competition of Young Players, Girls' Championship, as well as club and women's clubs competitions, and Armenia's tournament of ! quick chess.

At the meeting it was also decided to invite a conference of the Armenia's Chess Federation. Later, the Federation's Veterans, Composition, and Referees Commissions made their presentations.

The Council of the Chess Federation approved a series of events dedicated to the 60th birth anniversary of Rafael Vahanian and discussed issues related to the commendation of the young players who have shown good results at the World and Europe's Championships and at the World Chess Olympiad.



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Established in 1906, AGBU (www.agbu.org) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.