



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, January 28, 2011

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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### AGBU NEWS

1. **AGBU partnering with Eduardo Eurnekian in NKR**  
*"One Laptop Per Child" Project*

On January 26, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, Mr. Ara Harutyunyan and Mr. Eduardo Eurnekian, an internationally recognized Argentinean-Armenian businessman signed a memorandum of understanding, launching the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) program in the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh (NKR). The program will be implemented in partnership with the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization, and the government of NKR.

This program is aimed at providing laptop computers to elementary schools in Karabakh and connecting them to the Internet through wireless networks to be installed in their facilities.



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OLPC is an educational program developed at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Boston, Massachusetts. OLPC develops state of the art laptop computers, which are equipped with advanced educational software for students in developing countries.

*"The world community sees Nagorno Karabakh within the context of war and regional conflict. People fail to take note of the children who are born and live there. These children are entitled to the universal right of education and access to information"* said Mr. Eurnekian. *"Through OLPC, I intend to bridge the gap and give the children of NKR the opportunity to receive the best education the world has to offer"* Mr. Eurnekian continued.

Mr. Eurnekian has asked the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) to assist in the implementation of the project. AGBU has undertaken the responsibility of providing the necessary on-the-ground support to ensure the success of the OLPC project.

*"We are here to bring our experience in education and innovative technology to make this program complete. Together with Mr. Eurnekian we will bring this program to fruition"*, said Mr. Yervant Zorian, member of the AGBU Central Board of Directors, during the official signing ceremony.

The Government of NKR has welcomed Mr. Eurnekian's initiative with great excitement and incorporated the OLPC program in its educational system. The Government has also committed to make telecommunications interconnection available in all schools, in order to enhance the educational impact of the OLPC program.

During his meeting with Mr. Harutyunyan before signing the Memorandum of Understanding, Mr. Eurnekian emphasized that it is the obligation of the world community to make sure that all children in the world have access to education and information. He further emphasized that Armenians around the world, individually or through organizations, must contribute to the cause of educating the future generations of the nation.

*"Today, I intend to plant the seeds of an international effort to integrate the children of NKR in the world community. They deserve receiving proper education and access to the world of information. I thank the AGBU for accepting my invitation to join the project. I hope that together, we will be able to achieve success in NKR and expand the project to Armenia with the support of the organization's global network"*, stated Mr. Eurnekian.

## **POLITICS**

### **2. Driving away the responsibility of genocide, the Turkish state leaves the shame of the genocide committer on its people [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

Armenians are not the only victims of genocide. Ethnographer Hranush Kharatyan said today at a meeting with reporters that good or bad but in villages and towns many Armenians and Turks had joined life, thus both of them are the victims of policy. "The people with the hands of which the genocide was committed are also victims for us. In global sense it is an ethnic sacrifice," the ethnographer said, adding that the Turkish authorities denying the fact of genocide till now, not even trying to understand which is responsible for it keep the whole Turkish people as hostages as in this case the whole guilt falls on the people.

"We are saying "Turks" unlike the Holocaust when it was said "fascists" and not the "Germans" as they were concrete people with concrete responsibility. Today the word "Turk" is being perceived as capable of genocide," Kharatyan said.

Whether people are able to commit genocide – Kharatyan said that the both parties have their clear position in case of Turkey it is a policy of denial. "Driving away the responsibility of genocide, the Turkish state leaves the shame of the genocide committer on its people," the ethnographer said.

### **3. Expert: Karabakh must have its word in issue relation to it [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

In reality there is no new tendency in the Karabakh conflict settlement negotiations, former member of the Artsakh parliament, chief editor of the "Analitikon" magazine Gegham Baghdasaryan said speaking to reporters today.

"The efforts of the mediators are directed toward preservation of stable situation as there is concern that one of the sides, Azerbaijan, may go out of the negotiation process and try to solve the issue in another way," he said.

The speaker said he does not see serious grounds for Azerbaijan to go out of the process. Azerbaijan is making military statements more frequently when there is a "gold" or "silver" opportunity to



find solution at the negotiations. Baghdasaryan said with such strategy Azerbaijan wants to show that its participation in the negotiations is already a concession.

“But the non-usage of force must not only be a condition or concession but an obligation,” the speaker said. According to him, before the recognition of the NKR the Armenian public must promote the recognition of the Karabakh factor: Karabakh must have its word in every issue relating to it. The possibility of resuming of war always exists but in near future there are no “favorable conditions” for Azerbaijan to start a war.

#### **4. Expert: no possibility of war [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

Following the developments of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict it becomes clear that there is no possibility of war, political analyst Sergey Shakaryants said adding that may be Azerbaijan will try the soberness of Armenia. “If stemming from the last year’s logic we must wait that Azerbaijan will at any case try our soberness not only in the Artsakh line of contact but in common border with Armenia,” he noted.

According to Sergey Shakaryants Azerbaijani soldier is not ready to go to war alone. “Azerbaijan at least must get Turkey’s assistance and permission and in the current round Turkey does not want war connected with inner and foreign political developments,” the political analyst pointed out.

Sergey Shakaryants also expressed opinion that in the NKR negotiations there will be no progress, instead the current status-quo will be preserved.

#### **5. Sergey Shakaryants: Gul’s speech at PACE was not something new [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

The speech of Turkish President Abdullah Gul at PACE was not something new, they have been repeating that “song” from 1918, political specialist Sergey Shakaryants said today at a meeting with journalists, adding that Turkey has always moved forward with such a policy denying the fact of annihilation of Armenians by them. “They have not changed from 1918-1919, no other interpretation can be here,” the political specialist said.

During the PACE first plenary session 2011 kicked off in Strasbourg, the President and Foreign Affairs Minister of Turkey, which has assumed the presidency of the Assembly from November 2010 by 6-month rotation system, have already delivered speeches referring to the issue of relations with Armenia. Sergey Shakaryants noted that the Turkish state has committed the Armenian Genocide and must answer for it.

“Turkey has planned and committed genocide toward Armenians, while it continues to deny that fact in front of the international community,” Mr. Shakaryants said, citing the words of Greek President Karolos Papoulias, according to which Turkey has always been a barbarian. According to the political specialist, Gul’s speech at the PACE cannot bring to anything serious.

#### **6. Gagik Minasyan: Turkey goes on speaking in a language of preconditions [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

Turkey goes on speaking in a language of preconditions, NA member Gagik Minasyan said today at a meeting with journalists, referring to the statement of the Turkish President, according to which Armenia must leave the Azerbaijani territories.

“It is more than obvious that the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has been self-determined in its territory, it has not used any other territory. Moreover, one of the territories founded by it -Shahumyan, is a part of Azerbaijan up to now. If there is an issue of speaking of expropriating of other state, Turkey must be the first to show itself as an occupant of our friend country – Cyprus,” Mr. Minasyan said. According to him, speaking in a language of preconditions, Turkey once more gives a way to the way of acting which has already discredited it.

Referring to the current round of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations, the parliament member said that the process is in a passive stage, but has not expired itself. Speaking of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan’s visits to Cyprus and Greece, Mr. Minasyan noted that there are prospects of serious development of interstate relations.

“I think a country like Cyprus, which has an issue of restoration of territorial integrity, will support the perceptions of Armenia in regard to NK issue regulation within the EU frameworks. The Chairman of Cyprus, being the first among the countries of the European Union, distinctly stressed that he sees the realization of self-determination right of peoples in the basis of regulation of the Karabakh issue,” Mr. Minasyan said.



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The parliamentarian noted that Serzh Sargsyan's latest visits are in accordance with the undertaking foreign policy declared by him. According to him, in the sphere of bilateral relations agreements have been gained for development of economic, cultural and educational spheres. ! It has been registered the political relations between the two countries suggest that the economic cooperation must be deeper, more efficient and diverse.

The representatives of the business circles accompanying the president, too, have reached agreements. According to Mr. Minasyan, we must expect them to give their positive results in near future both by investment of the Greek and Cyprian capital in Armenia and by establishment of joint ventures.

## **7. Levon Shirinyan: Presidency of Turkey at PACE cannot bring to serious changes [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

The presidency of Turkey at the PACE cannot bring to serious changes, for the European Parliament has adapted a decision in 1987 on "Political Solution of the Armenian Issue", which says that a political solution must be given to the Armenian issue, political specialist Levon Shirinyan told today Armenpress, adding that the Turkish policy has adopted a strategy, which suggests 3 rounds.

"First they committed the Armenian Genocide, and then punished some individuals trying to put that blame not on the Turkish state, but on several persons. The third step of the Turks is that they deny the fact of the Armenian Genocide in different instances, conducting a policy of denial," the political specialist said. To remind, the first PACE plenary session of 2011 is running in Strasburg, where the Turkish President and the Foreign Minister have already delivered speeches referring to the issue of relations with Armenia. Referring to establishment of a subcommittee on NK issue at the PACE, the political specialist expressed concern that it is possible to take place.

"The oil factor of Iran may play its role, but we must not be afraid of establishment of that subcommittee," he noted. Before leaving for Strasburg, Chairperson of the NA Standing Committee on European Integration Issues, member of Prosperous Armenia Party and Armenian delegation at the PACE Naira Zohrabyan had told Armenpress that the issues to be discussed at the session do not concern Armenia, but there are numerous reports, in the context of which issues of great significance for Armenia can be raised.

## **8. Avetis Berberyan appointed RA President's assistant [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

On the decree of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan Avetis Berberyan has been appointed president's assistant, presidential press service told Armenpress.

## **9. "Heritage" ready to cooperate with opposition [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

The political oppositional forces have issue of uniting, this opinion belongs to the member of the "Heritage" faction Armen Martirosyan. According to him, the cooperation of oppositional forces today is a necessity to ensure more effective activity.

"From the point of view of uniting, the opposition needs to undertake steps. "Heritage" said about it previously and in a letter it offered to the oppositional forces to unite over a round table and work out agenda of activity," Martirosyan said. According to him, there are forces in the political field with which "Heritage" sees cooperation edges. These forces are the Armenian National Congress, ARF and "New Times" party.

As to the prediction that in the coming parliamentary elections the "Heritage" will not be able to overcome the 5% barrier, Martirosyan noted that they are not concerned with those predictions. "The time will show what results the "Heritage" will register," the parliamentarian said, adding that the issue of the format of participation in the parliamentary elections the "Heritage" has not discussed yet.

## **10. Head of Jewish community says denial of genocide is a crime against whole mankind [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

January 27 is well known in the whole world as an International Day of Holocaust. Head of the Jewish community Rima Varzhapetyan said at today's press conference that all the disasters of the 20th century started by the Armenian Genocide and continued by a holocaust committed against the Jewish. "We think that denial of genocide of any type is a crime against the whole mankind. It is the biggest malice against the whole mankind and must be strictly condemned," Mrs. Varzhapetyan said.



Rima Varzhapetyan also expressed hope that it is high time for Turkey to recognize the Armenian genocide, as all the bad events in the world are the result of impunity of crimes. The speech is about terrors and other crimes of international nature.

The head of the Jewish community, referring to the issues of the community, noted that the Armenian government and president support their community, though the number of the latter is very small. "Our activity in Armenia is highly assessed, and the previous year was quite efficient and interesting. We managed to publish a book telling about Jews living in Armenia, we managed to conduct a soiree dedicated to France Verfel with the support of the Armenian Culture Ministry. We hope and intend to open a Jewish museum in Armenia," she said.

## **11. RA President: Referendum only way to settle Karabakh conflict [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

"I am sure the only way to settle the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is the conduction of referendum there or recognition of the results of the 1991 referendum conducted in full compliance with the USSR legislation and international right," Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated in an interview to Echo Moskvi radio station. "The issue may be regulated only through mutual concessions. I think I am not saying anything new as in 2007 the OSCE Minsk group co-chairs suggested us a document named "Madrid principles" and these principles suppose that the settlement of the conflict is possible through mutual concessions," Serzh Sargsyan said, explaining that the first one of the principles is the territorial integrity, the second one the self-determination of the people and the third one non-usage of force and threat of force. According to him, in 2007 after long thinking Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed over these principles.

"But gradually Azerbaijan started commenting these principles on its own way and when it was spoken about the right to self-determination, they were saying – yes, but as part of Azerbaijan. It is understandable that such self-determination may be called not only incomplete self-determination if it is possible to say so. And secondly as if the non-usage of force functions in case when a state does not have occupied territories," the president pointed out, adding that in such cases every time he wants to remind that in 1994 a treaty on ceasefire was signed the goal of which was the establishment of peace and the solution of the issue. "No one has yet annulled the provisions of the treaty," Serzh Sargsyan said.

He also rated high the commitments of the parties on not resuming the military actions as during the recent 1,5-2 years the talks about resuming the military actions have become common. "It is very bad, as when a leader or a common person is speaking about an issue for a long time at a certain moment he gets convinced in his words. And if there are opportunities a big temptation rises. But I am sure that it is possible to avoid war," the president pointed out.

## **12. Serzh Sargsyan: Azerbaijan does not want to negotiate with NK, but it does not mean that Karabakh is not partaking in the negotiation process [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

Azerbaijan does not wish to conduct negotiations with Nagorno Karabakh but it does not mean that Nagorno Karabakh is not partaking in the negotiation process, President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan said in an interview to "Echo Moskvi" radio station, pointing out that every time before and after the negotiations he meets with the NK leadership "as conducting negotiations without NK, not to offend the Karabakhi people, would mean to go to engagement ceremony without bride or bridegroom."

He said that is the reason why there is no secret here and when in many cases we are not paying attention to this inquiry, afterwards the response becomes a subject for speculation of Azerbaijan.

"If we ask the Karabakhi people or Armenians, of course no one wants to return a centimeter of land but on the other hand we must remember that each decision must bring to long-lasting peace and that is why the concessions are necessary," the Armenian president said.

## **BUSINESS**

### **13. German company to present proposals on efficient organization of garbage cleaning in Yerevan [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

Representatives of German "Becker" company who are in Armenia to get acquainted with the general state of the sanitary and garbage cleaning of Yerevan met with Yerevan Mayor Karen Karapetyan. Press service of Yerevan municipality told Armenpress that chairman of the Yerevan municipality Hubert Armbrust presented to the Yerevan Mayor the results of the studies implemented by them in the capital.



Within the framework of the visit the representatives of the company got acquainted with the sanitary cleaning works of Erebuni and Kentron administrative unit, as well as visited Nubarashen landfill.

The Yerevan Mayor pointed out the importance of the studies implemented by the company. The representatives of “Becker” company assured that they will continue the studies in the capital and will briefly present the proposals on efficient organization of garbage cleaning in Yerevan.

#### **14. “Vatel” institute introduced into Armenia [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

“Vatel” institute has been introduced into Armenia. Chairman of “Vatel” group Alen Seban and Rector of the Armenian Tourism Institute Robert Minasyan signed the agreement on implementation of the programs of the institute in 2010 December 7 in Lion town, Mr. Minasyan said during the press conference at “Armenpress” press hall, adding that the graduates of the program will receive a French diploma of the institute, which is recognized in all the countries of the world.

“For development of tourism first of all good cadres are necessary, and for preparation of good cadres – a corresponding education,” he said, adding that this is an exclusively important step for development of tourism, as Armenia is integrated into a number of developed countries, which have the best developed tourism in the world and give as much importance to corresponding education.

“Yerevan is the 27th in the world to introduce this system. In near future the institute intends to open branches in towns of 4 different countries,” Mr. Minasyan said, pointing out that Armenia is becoming a regional center.

The graduates will get diplomas of 3 states – France, Russia and Armenia. This creates a prospective and fine opportunity for young people of Armenia and Diaspora. The education will last 4 years, as a result the graduates can work in the enterprises of air, land and sea transport and service. From this year’s September the education entitled “Vatel” will be conducted. In near future the lecturers of the Armenian Tourism Institute will be trained in France.

Director of the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen Gagik Makaryan said that the Union of the Armenian Businessmen is continuously interested in reforms in the sphere of education, which have two main directions. According to him, the first direction is the reforms implemented in the sphere of higher education, and the second is the sphere of professional education.

A national council for development of professional education has been set up in Armenia, chaired by the Ministry of Education and Science.

#### **15. Robert Minasyan: To develop tourism in Armenia first of all we must learn to smile [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

Nearly the 950 million out of the about 7 billion people living in the world make a tour of different countries, and the rest go on a tour in the homeland. Chairman of the Armenian Union of Ingoing Tour Operators, Rector of the Armenian Tourism Institute Robert Minasyan said during the press conference at “Armenpress” press hall that now all the countries of the world are actively working in the direction of development of tourism. “Tourism is also an activity and industry. Our country has all the prerequisites for development of tourism, we only need the human resource,” he said.

“I think the first primary condition for development of the sphere is creation of conditions for Armenian people to go on a tour inside the country. That our people do not take a rest inside the borders of our country must be a signal for us. We should reconsider the price policy,” Robert Minasyan said, adding that there are not corresponding organizations in provinces, while the most important Armenian historical and cultural values are in provinces. According to Mr. Miansyan, service is also culture, which must be ensured with an educational system.

In the direction of tourism development Armenia is now in negotiations with Russia, which is one of the most developed countries in regard to tourism. “To develop tourism in Armenia first of all we must learn smiling,” Mr. Minasyan said.

To remind, the Union of Ingoing Tour Operators aims to add the number of visitors to Armenia, to represent Armenia as hospitable country, and to develop the ingoing tourism. Sixteen tour organizations engaged in ingoing tourism are members of the Union.

#### **16. Online system of hotel reservation to be applied in Armenia [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

In the near future the ‘Armhotels’ company will apply an online system of booking of rooms at the hotels of Armenia, according to Robert Minasyan, rector of the Armenian tourism institute, chairman of the union of Armenian tour-operators.



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He said today during the press conference, held at the press hall of Armenpress, that the system was invested in all over the world many years ago.

The speaker says he is proud of the fact that the idea, initiative, implementation was called into being by the Armenian tourism institute's graduates, who got professional education.

'This proves that we cannot register achievements in the sphere unless we have good specialists,' he said. Robert Minasyan added that the institute, which is a branch of the international tourism academy of Russia, operates in the sphere of organizational management. He said students have an opportunity to receive practical training in the Armenian travel industry, as well as in over 20 foreign countries, among them Russia, Greece, Cyprus, Tunis, Egypt, Arab Emirates and Turkey.

Robert Minasyan added that the 'EURHODIP' administrative council's session is intended to be held in Yerevan in autumn, 2011. The 'EURHODIP' operates under the umbrella of the European Union and unites 150 educational establishments from various continents. The Armenian tourism institute has been a member of the organization since 2010.

## DIASPORA

### **17. Harut Sassounian: German insurance companies should stop cheating their Armenian clients [Noyan Tapan, 01/25/11] By Harut Sassounian, Publisher, The California Courier**

German firms filed a petition for a rehearing by the full 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, after a panel of three judges of that court had ruled that heirs of Armenian Genocide victims could seek payment from life insurance companies operating in the Ottoman Empire.

Rather than spending a fortune on high-powered lawyers, German insurance companies should promptly settle this case and pay the compensation owed to heirs of perished Armenian policy-holders. Many Armenian residents of the Ottoman Empire trusted these European companies and dutifully paid their premiums so that someday, when they passed away, their families would receive the proceeds of their policies.

This lawsuit has nothing whatsoever to do with genocide recognition or rights of states vis-a-vis the federal government. These German companies have violated their contractual agreements and failed to live up to their promises to Armenian policy holders. Their heirs are entitled to receive the payments owed to them, regardless of whether their ancestors were killed by genocidal maniacs or drunk drivers! The only relevant issue here is that upon their deaths, the heirs should have been promptly paid in keeping with the terms of the life insurance policies.

Instead, these German companies have avoided meeting their financial obligations for almost a century, and shamefully use Turkish denialist propaganda as their cover. Their lawyers even quote from revisionist materials posted on the Turkish Embassy's website. If these companies had filed a similar motion denying the Jewish Holocaust and quoting from neo-Nazi websites, they would have been out of business within 24 hours!

The lawyers argue that recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the U.S. government would "cause great harm to the nation's foreign policy interests." It is preposterous that German insurance companies are using such irrelevant arguments in order to continue enriching themselves. Safeguarding the interests of this nation is the responsibility of the U.S. government, not that of German companies.

In their appeal, the lawyers for the German firms cleverly start their recitation of the record on U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide by citing only the last three American Presidents, because during their term in office the House of Representatives did not adopt new congressional resolutions on the Armenian Genocide.

Fortunately, U.S. history does not start with the year 2000. The lawyers conveniently ignore the fact that the U.S. government first acknowledged the Armenian Genocide back in 1951 in a document it submitted to the International Court of Justice (World Court). Since then, the House of Representatives on two occasions -- 1975 and 1984 -- adopted resolutions commemorating the Armenian Genocide, and in 1981, Pres. Reagan issued a Presidential Proclamation mentioning the Armenian Genocide. Furthermore, 42 U.S. states and scores of American cities have acknowledged the Armenian Genocide during the past 50 years. The federal government has never objected to or expressed disagreement with any of those actions.. If recognizing the Armenian Genocide is not in the best interest of the United States, as these lawyers contend, then Pres. Reagan, the U.S. Justice Department, hundreds of House members who voted for the Genocide Resolution, thousands of legislators in 42 states, and scores of Mayors and Governors must be anti-American!

In fact, these historic affirmations are far more relevant to this case than the politically-motivated and morally bankrupt pronouncements of the last three U.S. Presidents. When California adopted a law in



2000 extending the statute of limitation on insurance claims by Armenian Genocide victims, it did so on the basis of the extensive record of U.S. recognition up to that time. Since then, no new resolutions were adopted and no votes cast contradicting this historical record. No U.S. official has ever denied the truthfulness of the Armenian Genocide. In reality, that record has been strengthened considerably by the fact that during the terms in office of the last three Presidents, successive House committees, on at least four occasions -- 2000, 2003, 2007 and 2010 -- have adopted resolutions acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

The most ridiculous aspect of the German companies' appeal is their attempt to justify their irresponsible behavior by citing this writer as an "authority" and quoting from one of my articles in which I criticize Pres. Obama for referring to the Armenian Genocide as "Meds Yeghern." Ken Hachikian, Chairman of the Armenian National Committee of America, is also listed as an "authority." He too had complained about Obama's use of that term. Pres. Obama's choice of words has no relevance to the fact that these companies have cheated their Armenian clients and their heirs by not paying the payments owed to them.

Rather than filing an appeal, it is high time for German life insurance companies to stop playing games with the legitimate claims of their perished clients, and promptly pay what they owe to their descendants.

## **18. The Armenian Philanthropists' Avenue to operate this year [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

The Armenian Philanthropists' Avenue will operate during this year. Head of the all-Armenian, international and church establishments ties department Kamo Sargsyan told Armenpress that the preparatory works have already launched. Tender of projecting statues that will be placed in the avenue was initially declared. The territory of the avenue will be the fourth sector of the Yerevan Oval Park, near Michael Nalbandyan monument.

Kamo Sargsyan noted that in parallel to the creation of statues renovation works must be carried out in the territory.

This year seven statues will be placed one of which will be a monument reflecting the general character of an Armenian philanthropist. Besides, taking into consideration certain standards statues of Hovhannes and Hovakim Lazaryan brothers, Alexander Mantashyan, Boghos Nubar, Caluste Gyulbenkyan, Alex Manoogian, Michael Aramyan will be placed. Another philanthropist may join them. This issue is being discussed.

Sargsyan said the process will be of continuative nature. The statues of those philanthropists will be placed who with their activity left a big trace in the history of Armenia, contributed to the reinforcement of Armenia-Diaspora ties, participated in the implementation of important national programs. Another standard is that 10 years must be passed since the death of the philanthropist.

## **19. Programs of Diaspora Ministry to have youth inclination [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

This year the programs of the Armenian Diaspora Ministry will have a youth inclination, head of RA Diaspora Ministry's staff Firdus Zakaryan told Armenpress, noting that this year the Ministry will pay higher attention especially to "Come Home" program and to implementation of professional summits.

The Diaspora Ministry intends a conduction of events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the genocide, drafting of programs, compiling of educational popular literature and delivery to Armenian communities of Diaspora, implementation of an all-Armenian award-giving ceremony, preparation of "Diaspora Hour" TV program, replenishment of the electronic library, implementation of an integration program of Iraqi-Armenians, organization of events dedicated to the 20th anniversary of RA independence, etc.

## **ARTS**

### **20. A blues concert dedicated to Martin Luther King Day [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

A blues concert dedicated to Martin Luther King Day was held today in the US Embassy in Armenia. The guests were presented an extract from the well known work by Martin Luther King "I have a Dream", Suren Arustamyan's blues band performed as well. Welcoming the guests, US Ambassador to Armenia Marie Jovanovitch briefly referred to King's heritage.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American clergyman, activist, and prominent leader in the African American civil rights movement. He is best known for being an iconic



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figure in the advancement of civil rights in the United States and around the world, using nonviolent methods following the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

King is often presented as a heroic leader in the history of modern American liberalism. Mrs. Jovanovitch said that paying a tribute of honor to King's activity, we show our assessment to his contribution to the USA and whole world and revalue the consciousness how much each of us can do every day in this important continuous work.

## **21. International contests in creative unions [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

The Union of Russian Armenians and World Armenian Congress are conducting international contests together with all the creative unions operating in Armenia. Money awards have been established in the music, literature and journalism spheres. Vice president of the union and congress Vladimir Aghayan said the contest is being held in collaboration with the RA Diaspora Ministry and Diaspora Armenians may also take part in it.

Vladimir Aghayan said this year the ministry and the Union of Russian Armenians declared a Year of Youth and that is why the contests will either be of youth theme or for young people.

## **22. Chairman of European Piano Competition to visit Armenia [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

A delegation headed by Yves Robert, founder chairman of the European Piano Competition and coordinator of the European Piano Program, has been visiting Armenia January 25-30 to establish close ties with the country's cultural society.

Press service of the French Embassy to Armenia told Armenpress that during the visit preliminary works will be carried out in the direction of organizing master classes in May, which will be conducted by Art Director of the European Piano Competition, French pianist Daniel Laval.

On January 27, French pianist Julien Faure will give a concert in the French Embassy in Armenia. He will perform works by Liszt, Chopin and Ravel. Three pianists from Yerevan State Conservatory – Isabella Marutyan, Artavazd Hambaryan and Ashken Grigoryan will take part in the concert.

The European Piano Competition will enable two Armenian pianists to take trainings in France and to participate in the European Piano Competition, which will be held October 15-30.

## **23. Restoration centers for preservation of cultural heritage to be established [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

The ensuring of bases for preservation of cultural heritage, publicity of cultural heritage, as well as improvement of provision of cultural services will be the priorities of the 2011 activity of the RA culture ministry, according to Hasmik Poghosyan, RA culture minister.

She said today at a meeting with journalists that the ministry mapped out a strategy for the implementation of each of the above-mentioned priorities. It is intended to be called into being in the current year.

'Restoration centers for the preservation of cultural heritage will be established for the purpose of ensuring bases for preservation of cultural heritage,' the minister said. She added that works will be undertaken for equipping the technical bases of the centers, creating corresponding laboratories and organizing training of personnel for restoration of wall-paintings, monuments and cultural items.

The minister mentioned that the majority of over 24 thousand monuments and 1 million 738 thousand 678 museum items, registered in the RA, need restoration.

'The establishment of the center will ensure qualitative restoration and preservation of cultural values through the local potential,' Hasmik Poghosyan said. She added that after the establishment the center will be regional. Study of the international experience, trainings and workshops with the participation of foreign specialists are intended to be organized.

## **24. Electronic exhibitions of collections of RA Culture Ministry's museums to be organized [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

This year the RA culture ministry will undertake works in the direction of extending museum exhibitions via up-to-date technical means, according to Hasmik Poghosyan, RA culture minister.

She said today at a meeting with journalists that the program is directed to the extension of publicity of the cultural heritage.



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She said electronic exhibitions of collections of the RA culture ministry's museums will be organized within the framework of the program.

'Today, the museums present to the public only 2.57 % of their collections for lack of exhibition territory,' the minister said. Hasmik Poghosyan added that due to the investment of modern technologies, the frames of exhibition will be extended and additional information on cultural heritage of the funds of museums will be provided.

## **25. Joint systems of electronic sale of tickets to be introduced into cultural structures [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

Joint systems of electronic sale of tickets by application of modern IT will be introduced in the running year into the ticket economy of theatrical-concert and museum organizations for purpose of improvement of the cultural service.

Armenian Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan said today at a meeting with journalists that a joint system of electronic sale of tickets is intended to introduce into museums, concert and theatrical state organizations and into their branches. "The main goal of the program is to make the sale of the tickets more available for consumers," Hasmik Poghosyan said.

She noted that the introduction of this new system also requires periodical replenishment and updating of the electronic IT, and creation of a joint electronic net.

## **26. Hasmik Poghosyan: 'The Educational Part of the Jazz College will be preserved' [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

Reorganization of 'Yerevan state college of estrade-jazz art' and 'Yerevan state college of art' state non commercial organizations is intended according to the 1005 decision, the RA government adopted August 6, 2010. The decision caused a keen response in the society. RA Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan said today at a meeting with journalists that those, who caused doubts in the society, are connected neither with the students, nor with the lecturers.

'They just tended to spread misinformation, according to which they had not been aware of the decision and the ministry had made a secret decision,' Hasmik Poghosyan said. She added that before the adoption of the decision she convened a gathering of all the heads for the provision of information. Besides, the minister said, all the decisions by the RA government are being posted on the official website. 'We just started works, which do not hinder the creative, educational process, and they started to worry about that,' the minister said.

She added that the educational part of the jazz college will be preserved, and that 'it is quite natural there will be changes in the administrative part'. The minister did not provide any information on the new principal of the college, however she mentioned that she does not have a right to show biased attitude in that issue.

## **SOCIAL**

### **27. The Yerevan asylum - home to 1260 homeless people [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

Up to now the asylum intended for the Yerevan homeless has been home to 1260 people. Deputy Head of the Disabled People and Elderly Affairs Department of the Armenian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Anahit Gevorgyan told Armenpress that the asylum is currently intended for 60 people. Previously it was intended for 30, and later – for 50 people. Mrs. Gevorgyan said that the opportunities of the asylum have been widened. "Currently there is no vacant place in the asylum. The number of the applicants is growing especially in winter," Mrs. Gevorgyan noted.

Deputy Director of the temporary asylum for homeless people Arthur Makaryan noted that different types of services are provided in the asylum – social, psychological, legal. According to Mr. Markosyan, there are many cases when people need documents and the specialists of the asylum try to help them. Homeless people can live in the asylum for 60 day! s.

Mr. Gevorgyan said if a homeless person is old he/she is hosted in a boarding house, if he/she is capable of working, they try to provide him with a job, if he/she is ill they help him to solve health problems.

"There is only one asylum in Armenia for homeless people," Mrs. Gevorgyan said. According to her, there is no need to add the number of the asylum. Mr. Gevorgyan noted that suchlike asylum is to be opened in Gyumri as well, for there are numerous homeless people there.



## **28. 49 km-long road sectors and 6 bridges to be repaired [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

Armenian Transport and Communication Ministry intended 15 events for the 2011 of which the 7 in the transport field, 8 in communication and 4 issues have been considered prior, transport and communication minister Manuk Vardanyan said at a press conference today, reminding that the number of events in 2010 was 8 and no prior issues were set.

"3,5 billion AMD are intended for the road construction works which will be directed toward the restoration of 31,3 km-long roads," he noted.

The minister said with the state budget and loan means 249 km-long road sectors and 6 bridges will be repaired, and road preservation and exploitation works amounting to 5,5 billion AMD will be implemented. With the assistance of the Asian Development Bank it is intended to carry out program on restoration of 33,5 km-long rural roads. The program costs 3,1 billion AMD

It is also planned to carry out the 2d additi! onal financing of the improvement of vitally important roads 140 km-long with the assistance of the World Bank costing 12,4 billion AMD as well as the North-South road corridor development program. The minister said 10,6 billion AMD will be directed for that aim.

The minister also noted about the preparation and organization of the Tranche-1, Tranche-2 and Tranche-3 construction works of the North-South road corridor as a result of which 41km road sectors will be restored.

"In spring March-April we will declare a tender for the constructors," the minister said. The fourth prior issue the minister said is applying of new model of post management for 2011. "As far as none of us is pleased with the postal works we have suggested reviewing of the post management model," he said, adding that the ministry is negotiating with the "HayPost" leadership.

## **29. German Red Cross to continue charitable programs in Yerevan [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

The charitable programs implemented in the capital by the German Red Cross Organization of Baden-Wurtemberg state will go on. Press service of Yerevan Municipality told Armenpress that this was mentioned during the meeting of Yerevan Mayor Karen Karapetyan and a representative of the organization.

The Yerevan Mayor expressed gratitude to the representatives of the German Red Cross for the charitable programs implemented in the capital and for the important humanitarian mission. Expressing gratitude for the reception the guests handed to Yerevan Mayor the welcoming speech of the chairman and board of the German Red Cross Organization.

## **30. Social polls to find out youth issues [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

Nagorno Karabakh Culture and Youth Affairs Ministry will conduct sociological polls to find out the issues of the local youth, their political views, opportunities to organize education and free time. Head of the youth affairs department of the ministry Tigran Atanesyan told Armenpress that positive responses to assist in the inquiry have been received from five regions of Artsakh. "Now we are waiting for response from Kashatagh and Shahumyan regions after which we will pass to the next round," he said adding that the main inquiry will be conducted minimum among 1000 people and in all the regions of the NKR.

The ministry also intends to work out youth policy strategy for 2012-2014 which will be based on the results of the polls. Tigran Atanesyan said currently the ministry is implementing another monitoring which will again help in getting general picture of the problems of the youth.

"The ministry has formed task groups that must study the peculiarities of ensuring of cultural life in the regions. The task groups will include representatives of our department who will study the issues of the young people of the regions," Atanesyan said. The monitoring will be conducted among 16-30 years old.

## **31. The Union of Russian Armenians has declared the 2011 as the Year of Youth [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

The Union of Russian Armenians has declared the 2011 as the Year of Youth. Vice president of the union Vladimir Aghayan told Armenpress that the events organized by the union will relate to the youth. "The core of these events must be the youth. Our goal is to ensure their active participation in building the homeland. We must do so that the young man feels responsibility in erecting the future of its country, realizes his personal role and importance," Aghayan said adding that this year the first event was



the conduction of Jivan Gasparyan contest of duduk players the gala concert and prize giving ceremony of which will take place January 29.

The Union of Russian Armenians and World Armenian Congress together with the RA National Academy of Sciences will conduct "Best Scientific Work Contest". Scientists under 35 years old may take part in the event. "Till now we have not put age restrictions in such like contests but as far as this year is declared year of youth we did so," Aghayan said.

Awards amounting till 700 000 AMD will be granted to each winner young scientist in 14 fields mathematics, physics, informatics, chemistry, biology history, etc.

Fourteen contest and one general commissions will be set up to decide the final winners.

### **32. Introductory visit of foreign journalists to Armenia [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

The Armenian Economy Ministry intends to organize an introductory visit of foreign journalists to Armenia in the running year. An official from the Ministry's Tourism Department told Armenpress that the terms and the program are currently under specification. According to the Tourism Department, suchlike visits give an opportunity to present Armenia to foreigners once more.

Such a program was implemented in the previous years as well: in 2008 journalists from Italy, and in 2009 - from the World Tourism Organization arrived in Armenia. Last year 25 journalists from Britain, France, Russia and other countries visited our country. The tourism department will actively work this year too, implementing a good marketing policy. Participation in numerous international tourism exhibitions is intended, where Armenia will be properly presented.

### **33. Scientific conference dedicated to 500th anniversary of Armenian book-printing [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Armenian book-printing the National Library of Armenia intends to conduct a scientific conference in spring. Deputy Director of the National Library Rafik Ghazaryan told Armenpress that the participants of the scientific conference will refer to the Armenian colonies, where an activity of Armenian book-printing has been extended. The details of the conference are currently under specification.

Mr. Ghazaryan noted that some preliminary works will be carried out this year related to the events on the 500th anniversary of the Armenian book-printing. The repair works of Tamanyan sub-building of the National Library are intended to finish in the running year. An Armenian Book Museum will be set up in the structure of the National Library, which will be placed at Tamanyan sub-building. "Today we do not manage to present the rich history of printing, because we do not have that opportunity. The geography of the Armenian book-printing is very large, and there are large-scale materials connected with it.

The museum will be a unique event in the cultural life of our republic. It is an issue of great importance to present the 500-year path of book-printing through such a museum," Mr. Ghazaryan said. According to him, Armenian book-printing has quite a rich history; it must be comprehensively presented not only to Armenians but to foreign representatives as well. Rafik Ghazaryan noted that the museum will be of great significance from the viewpoint of tourism as well. After finishing the repair in Tamanyan sub-building, several departments of the library will be moved here.

### **34. President meets parents of killed servicemen [Armenpress, 01/27/11]**

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan met today in front of his residence parents of servicemen that were killed during different years in different circumstances. The parents expressed their complaint over the processes of examination of the criminal cases.

In response, the president noted that he is going to meet with the newly appointed military prosecutor Gevorg Kostanyan. "He will meet with you too, will hear you and display a new approach," Serzh Sargsyan said, pointing out that he is personally interested in revealing the circumstances of deaths of the soldiers. "All such cases are painful for us and are big losses," the president said.

Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan reported to Serzh Sargsyan that all the criminal cases are under his direct control.

## **SPORTS**



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## **35. A concept on funding of development of physical culture and sport needed [Armenpress, 01/26/11]**

Armenian Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs has singled out 3 primary directions for the year of 2011 – drafting of a concept on funding of the development of physical culture and sport, organization of a contest on “The Best Athletic Family”, conduction of polling among Armenian young people and preparation of a new report.

Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs Arthur Petrosyan said today at a meeting with journalists that the concept must be simple, transparent and acceptable by the majority. According to Mr. Petrosyan, nearly the 4 billion Dram means provided from the state budget cannot be enough for development of a structure, which fixes Armenia’s biggest successes in international areas.

The Minister attached importance to conduction of studies in the direction of development of youth state policy and its drafting in an appearance of a new national report, for the report 2006 already needs numerous changes.

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