



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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### AGBU NEWS

1. Educational system is the main prerequisite of the scientific economy  
*According to the President of the American University of Armenia Dr. Bruce M. Boghosian [Azg, 05/13/11] Interview by Melania Badalian*

Dr. Bruce Boghosian assumed the post of the President of the American University of Armenia on September 1, 2010. He is the third president of the AUA during the 20 years of its operation.

The broad of working experience in American, European and other famous universities and scientific researches represent the work of a professor and a specialist that has its valuable contribution to the exact sciences.

He received his bachelor's degree in Physics and master's degree in Nuclear Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He earned his Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis.

Before moving to the American University of Armenia, Dr. Boghosian spent the previous ten years as professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics at Tufts University in Massachusetts, where he also served concurrently as adjunct professor in the Departments of Computer Science and Physics. Earlier, he was employed as a senior scientist in the Group for "Thinking Machines Corporation" in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and at the Center for Computational Science and Department of Physics, Boston University.

Dr. Bruce Boghosian's researches have been devoted to developing a fundamental understanding of the nature of turbulence in fluid dynamics, and he uses both theoretical and computational methods that were not yet used in the USA. Pursuant to this research, he has held visiting



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professorship and research positions at a number of famous Universities, such as École Normale Supérieure in Paris, Peking University, University of California, universities of Berkeley, Trieste, Cambridge, United Kingdom; University College London, etc.

Dr. Bruce Boghosian has over 80 publications and has given 150 invited talks in the various universities. He is a member of the editorial boards of a number of international monthly journals (Journal of Computational Science, Physica A, Computing in Science and Engineering, and International Journal of Modern Physics C – Physics and Computers). He is the recipient of many awards and honors in the United States as a scholar and teacher, including Tufts University's Distinguished Scholar Award in 2010. He is a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia from 2008.

The foundation of American University of Armenia in the first year after the independence of our country that was the most difficult year, was a significant phenomenon in our educational system, based on the Western methods and standards of teaching, at the same time was also symbolic. In a short time period the limited programs of the University were expanded, and the educational institution passed a firm way of developments. Our conversation with the President of the University is about the current processes of the institution, about possible changes and development. This interview is conducted within the interviews with rectors of the most important universities of our country.

- *Dr. Boghosian, which are your observations after your seven months long experience at the American University of Armenia, and what new developments are expected?*

- The university that opened in Armenia's Independence Day - on September 21, had only two academic programs and 101 students. Now it is expanded and has 7 specialized departments (Business and Management, Industrial Engineering, Informational and Communicational Technologies, Political Sciences, Public Healthcare, Law and Comparative Legal Researches, English).

In addition to this each section has its research center and Acopian Center for the Environment, where every student must have any theme for self development; of course, being sure that there are many serious challenges of environmental protection.

The total number of the American University of Armenia graduates is 1500 up to days. My meetings with many of them, with the administrative representatives and with various other circles made an impression that there is a positive appraisal of university activities. Many alumni are involved in business, banking, and other areas; University's results are tangible in our country's economy.

- *What do you think, isn't this problem vulnerable? Could Armenian underdeveloped economic system provide all of them with work? And have the emigration preconditions of these educated young people become matured and substantiated?*

- The statistics of years states that 75-80 percent of our graduates remain in Armenia, 20-25 percent went abroad, a part of them went for their doctoral candidacy, we hope for their return.

- *What and how much is the university staff?*

- Professorial staff consists of 30 workers, foreign and local specialists are among them. Such simultaneously activities are very effective and create a healthy environment. This is a manifestation of the Armenian-American cooperation. An important part of our mission is to conduct training courses, to introduce American teaching methods and standards to the Armenian teachers, to prepare professors. It is very desirable that those graduates of the AUA, who are abroad for their doctoral candidacy, return and work in our University.

- *As far as I know, there is a valid mechanism in the University that ensures work for the graduates.*

- Yes, Alumni and Career Development Office organizes works in that direction, and the graduates are always connected electronically and are well informed about all news and proposals. I've met them in person and ventured my opinion, also gave them advice on the job search methods, on being well prepared for interviews, on presenting their knowledge and abilities to the employer.

I wish the university to be in closer relations with its alumni and those relations to be mutual, in order all of them could feel themselves in general field of the university ad vitam, as a member of that family. We also try to connect the students being abroad to the University Association, a part of them is in New York, Washington, California.

- *The University, of course, has financial difficulties. While the tuition fees went up, but we suppose, it is not enough to overcome the economic crisis and other complications caused by other factors. What are you going to do in such situations - projects or staff reduction, or ...?*

- Indeed, the economic crisis affects university procedures. Our material resources are also gained from the interests of the existing immune funds and from the income that is accumulated from it. Because of the crisis the profits were declined, it was then even before the 2008 crisis, there always was a budget deficit. And we needed to organize fundraisings. Of course, this is not an ideal way, it would be better to add the collected amount to the capital, it would made income more durable. Recent years'



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difficulties have forced the University administration to make some reductions that affected the salaries, i.e. the same level is kept, but not raised.

Usually in such situations there are two main reactions: to reduce all programs for not exceeding the limits and the second version, to approach more aggressively and expand programs making them more interesting and attract new investments.

*- It is clear, you choose the second way. And what part of the budget is the amount received from tuition fees?*

- The University student pays one-third of the tuition fee for his or her education, which accounts for 3000 dollars during a year. The most important point of the University policy is not quitting any of our insolvent students. It is the responsibility of the AUA to procure the necessary amount. The University realizes Admission advanced standing admission exceptionally based on the knowledge, later refers to the social conditions. In the USA this is called "blind decision instead of the needs"; there are a few universities there that adhere to this principle. This can be formulated as Admission that neglects paying capacity. American University of Armenia has adopted such a principle, which is also an important part of our mission. About half of the University students receive different types of financial assistance. Foreign students' tuition fee is charged fully, which is about 9000 dollars.

*- And what percent they comprise?*

- They are not many, only 40 out of 400, and most of them are Armenians. I think this number should be increased. It is important to involve students from Iran, India, China and other countries. This changes the university environment, makes it international, which will help to increase the institution rating. Such environment is very important for education. I can ensure that the international student environment was very important at the years of my study. It is important mainly for Armenia, especially that the local population consists of the ethnic Armenians, and these contacts and relations create wider opportunities.

I would like to touch upon another important issue - the University is accredited in the USA. Accreditation is a seven-year, which is the maximum that the AUA received. This is a continuous, uninterrupted process and will restart at the expiration. This is a most important factor to attract students, because they are given a chance to receive American education at a lower price than in the United States.

If I can go back to the former question; should we reduce or expand programs during the financial difficulties? In this case I have two proposals.

The mission of the American University of Armenia is to help Armenians and the Armenian government by importing new academic methods, include them in the general educational system expecting new results. These new programs and methods are additional to the existing ones, they do not compete. The Institution is unique in its structure and approaches. As an American University at the same time it is American University of Armenia, the meaning and sense of which is the collaboration with the government of Armenia, Armenian business circles, educational and other institutions, intellectual and cultural environments, which is the main guarantee for the further developments.

By saying original, unique, we should not remain enclosed, but respond to the requirements of the National Academy, Ministry of Science and Education, other ministries, and effectively cooperate with them. The second direction refers to the expansion of the programs, the American sector, and a closer relationship with the Armenian Diaspora. My experience shows that many Armenians in Diaspora are not aware of the AUA's existence, particularly about its importance and results given to Armenia. It is required to carry out appropriate works within the framework of the Armenian academics, businessmen, donors from Diaspora to involve them into the group of those, who realize the importance of the AUA.

*- Such projects require human labor, environmental resources, volition, assistance, etc.*

- This is a challenge; we are organizing fundraising in the US and hope providing developments also through the other valuable programs. I am not saying that it would be easy, we have to work hard. We have limited resources, wishes, plans, but need using caution while implementing financial projects.

*- Since the first days of the establishment the university receives support of the Armenian General Benevolent Union. Are there more expectations?*

- Over the years, as a founding body the AGBU has always helped the University and is one of the major benefactors of the financial part. The University of California from the USA provides academic consultations, experts, support in exchange programs. About half of the AUA Board of Deans are the leaders of the various departments of the University of California, and the provost, chief academic and operations officer, is the Vice President of the University of California.

We need to strengthen ties between the AUA, University of California and Government of Armenia to have a higher quality of education. Armenia's future economy will be an economy based on science. That is the general tendency. We do not have enough mine resources, natural minerals, as we



are not engaged in a trade as a nation. And creation of an excellent educational system is the main possibility and precondition to develop scientific economy. It is clear that great efforts are made in this direction. The educational institutions re-evaluate their activities and roles. The Ministry of Education and Science pays more attention to the educational effectiveness, different projects and new ideas are brought to light, which are about the ways for direct connection between education and economy.

I hope that the coming years would be very inspiring for education. The most important is that it will develop our economy and will provide our people with work opportunities, such work that will keep them in this country.

- *Yes, it is a very important and urgent condition. AUA's educational structure, programs are foreseen for graduate education. Are changes possible in this regard?*

- The AUA goal is to maximize the educational quality. Such fundamental changes should be considered within the framework of general educational system. There is not such a decision yet, it is an issue of the future.

- *We had a perspective of turning "Paramaz Avedisian" new Building, which was built by the donations of a benefactor from Diaspora, into an academic-scientific center. There is also an adjacent park, which would be renovated after the construction. What works are carried out?*

- Construction works are under-way now; we enriched the new building's interior, completely renovated the old building: floors and windows, which were not heat-insulated, were replaced by new ones. The library will be expanded, kitchen conditions will be modernized. As for the works at the park, many trees are planted there; we have a gardener, who takes care of a garden. We are associated with the district administration and municipality. Our architect has many fine projects. But the question of water supply is still unsolved, if the district administration solves the question of irrigation, the works of the garden would pick up speed. The road that existed before the construction is open. It is planned to have a coffee corner inside the new building, in a garden adjacent area, which, would serve as a recreational area for the community, like the park.

- *"Agean" gallery opened in "Paramaz Avedisian" building was a novelty. Are the cultural projects continuous?*

- The gallery is constantly running. Exhibitions, public lectures, concerts are organized there periodically; there is a good piano there. Although the University has no any academic art program, it is a good way to bring culture to the university life.

- *And the last question. Have you been in Armenia previously and what are your impressions now?*

- In recent years I have been in Armenia for several times, the longest visit lasted three weeks, when I was here with my family. It is a very pleasant place. I am enjoying my days spent here. Yerevan has a very close atmosphere; the people are warm, lovely: the city Center - Opera, Philharmonic Society, and cafes produce very good impression. When I return back, I urge my friends in Diaspora to go and see Armenia. I have many relatives in different countries, and when I visit them in the US, London, Paris, Beirut and elsewhere, I see the wonderful sites, brilliant architecture, and impressive churches. And if you see all of these and do not see Armenia, this is like being on the every planet of the universe besides the sun. When I return from Armenia, I send this message to everyone.

## POLITICS

### **2. Germany will go on with the steps to develop the relations with Armenia [Noyan Tapan, 05/13/11]**

On May 11, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received Ambassador and Special Envoy for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Patricia Flor, who has arrived in Armenia to attend consultations between the Foreign Ministries.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the Armenian-German relations, Armenia-EU cooperation and Association Agreement negotiations.

Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian presented the latest developments in the negotiations on the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Edward Nalbandian and Patricia Flor touched upon a number of international and regional issues, MFA press office reported.

### **3. Raczynski says no expediency in finding new format of talks over NK conflict settlement [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**



The Karabakh conflict may be settled in case of mutual concessions and display of political will, Polish ambassador to Armenia Zdzislaw Raczynski said at a news conference today.

According to him, today there is no expediency in searching new formats for the settlement of the conflict as OSCE Minsk Group already exists. "Conflicts, regional issues impede the implementation of Eastern Partnership initiative. The development of the region and its prosperity is possible only in case of successful cooperation of the South Caucasian countries. In this respect the closed borders and the existence of conflict give blow to the parties. The solution of the NK issue stems from the interest of all", Raczynski said.

He said during these long years of negotiations there were moments when the parties were close to the settlement of the issue and it was necessary to go to concessions and solve the conflict. "But unfortunately because of this or that issue, particularly inner-political ones, none of the parties displayed a political will and settled the issue. The European Union sees the South Caucasus as a united fist thus without the unity of the latter it will not be possible to reach integration of the region into Europe", the ambassador pointed out.

#### **4. Patricia Flor: The Azerbaijani president's warlike statements are unacceptable [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**

"The Nagorno Karabakh issue should be settled only through peaceful means, and if the president of Azerbaijan speaks in Baku about settling the issue through military means, it is unacceptable for us," Ambassador Patricia Flor, German Federal Foreign Ministry's special envoy for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, stated today in an interview with Armenpress.

"Of course we understand that in this conflict the principles of territorial integrity and self-determination of peoples clash; however the issue should be settled through mutual concessions," she said. She emphasized the importance of disarmament, as well as withdrawal of snipers for the regulation of the issue.

"We are also concerned with the arms race in the region, taking into account the fact that Azerbaijan exceeds several times the number of owning permissible weapons," Patricia Flor said. She said the contact line incidents resulting in deaths are worrying as well.

#### **5. Patricia Flor: Turkey should face its own history [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**

To settle some issues Turkey must face its own history, according to Ambassador Patricia Flor, German Federal Foreign Ministry's special envoy for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

She said today in an interview with Armenpress that facing the own history requires long and painful discussions and great courage. "Germany has passed this route in the 1960-1970s, when Chancellor Willy Brandt took the first painful step, apologizing from the Poles and Jews, however he has some critics inside Germany," Patricia Flor said.

According to the ambassador, Germany is implementing various programs in the region by uniting Armenian and Turkish young people, who discuss the events during 1915 and the World War I.

"The essential point here is that Germany has recognized its own guilt and responsibility," Patricia Flor said.

#### **6. Kiro Manoyan: Armenian-Turkish negotiations enter deadlock because of Turkey [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**

The Armenian-Turkish negotiation process entered a deadlock because of Turkey as the latter forwards Nagorno Karabakh as a precondition, head of the ARF Bureau's Armenian Cause and Political Affairs Office Kiro Manoyan said at a news conference, adding that it will be right to conclude these statements with Armenia's withdrawal of signatures under the protocols. "In this case the protocols are favorable only for Turkey, certain countries started commenting on them like the Turkish side. That is to say if the Armenian-Turkish relations may bring peace, the Artsakh issue may also be solved in one package", Kiro Manoyan said, pointing out that it is unacceptable for Armenia.

#### **7. Serzh Sargsyan says reconciliation with Turkey is possible in case it recognizes the Armenian Genocide [Armenpress, 05/17/11]**

"The reconciliation process may start after Turkey recognizes the Armenian Genocide. Without recognition no reconciliation will take place. Those are mistaken who are trying to present the attempts of



normalization of relations with Turkey as an attempt of reconciliation. A real reconciliation will take place only after repentance", President Serzh Sargsyan said in an interview to "Moskovskiy Novosti" newspaper, in response to the question whether on the threshold of 100th anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide it will stop playing an important role in the Armenian-Turkish relations.

"Is it possible to reach full economic growth without solving obvious geo-political issues, without normalizing relations with Turkey?". In response to this question, President noted that the economic aspect is not considered the main reason of normalization of relations with Turkey.

"This issue does not have an unequivocal response "yes, growth is possible" or "no, it is not possible". As if "no", how we are developing for already 20 years, and if "yes" why we are developing in these tempos. Of course we will not die of hunger. As Napoleon said "the geography of a country erects its history". The geography is a verdict, is a fate", he said.

"We are living here and must have some relations with neighbors. Of course not at any cost. When we started the process of normalization of relations many opponents started saying that it will impede the recognition of the Armenian Genocide in the whole world. These predictions, thanks God, have not come true. The Armenian Genocide is undeniable and we all must undertake efforts so that Turkey finally recognizes it. It is a fight for justice, security", the president said.

## **8. Serzh Sargsyan: It is naïve to think that the people of Karabakh can refuse what they achieved [Armenpress, 05/17/11]**

The Nagorno Karabakh conflict can be regulated only through mutual concessions, RA President Serzh Sargsyan said today in an interview with "Moskovskie Novosti" newspaper. Armenpress reports that the president said that during these years the Armenian party was trying to find mutual concessions.

"But there is a "red line" – the people of Nagorno Karabakh are to rule their own destiny and to have an opportunity of secure development in their historical homeland. You know that the Minsk group is engaged in this issue, President of Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev exerts great efforts and we are grateful to him for this. It is the Minsk group that proposed a document, which we conditionally call the Madrid Principles. It implies settlement on the basis of three principles – use of force or threat of force, territorial integrity and right of peoples to self-determination.

This document mainly gives an opportunity to continue the negotiations and start the peace agreement, the great agreement. We clearly understand what those principles mean. Azerbaijanis after thinking a lot said "yes" as well, but actually they perceive the principles in their own manner," the president said

He added that on all the levels the Azerbaijani authorities continuously threaten with resuming military actions: this is a violation of the first principle. As to the principle of territorial integrity, the Azerbaijanis "seem to have made it an absolute dogma out of the international law's context". As to the principle of right of peoples to self-determination, "they perceive the self-determination only within the framework of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity". This is a "primitive self-determination". "So long as Azerbaijan has not understood the meaning of the principle, it will be quite difficult to seek settlement of the issue. Karabakh defended its independence in a bloody and cruel war, under conditions of utmost difficulty, and it is naïve to think that the people of Karabakh can refuse what they achieved," the RA president stated.

He noted that these same principles allowed Armenia and Azerbaijan to gain independence. As to resuming military actions, he said there is such an opportunity.

"It seems there are projects, connected with accumulation of forces or means, in order to try launching new military adventures at a convenient moment. "This is not a proper approach, as the events can develop with two scenarios. The first is a total war and further occupation of Nagorno Karabakh, which is possible only the total annihilation of Karabakh. And the second is Azerbaijan's defeat, loss of new territories. In that case Azerbaijan may complaint of the loss of other 5, 6 or more regions," President Serzh Sargsyan said. He added that all those scenarios are non-prospective.

## **BUSINESS**

### **9. Tondo Renco is ready to contribute to the deepening of the Armenian-Italian Relations [Noyan Tapan, 05/13/11]**

The mayor of Yerevan Karen Karapetyan met the delegation of Friuli Venice Julia region of Italy in Yerevan and the Ambassador of Italy to RA Bruno Skapini. Karen Karapetyan, introducing the policy carried out in the field of the urban economy management, mentioned those directions which may be of



business interest for investments. By appreciating the Italian urban constructing culture the mayor suggested to discuss the project of forming a joint centre for architectural design, as well as to consider the mechanisms for mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of health, garbage collection, landscape gardening and in other fields of urban economy management. "We are ready to discuss concrete projects and exchange ideas on work during your visit", said the mayor.

The president of the Region Tondo Renco, speaking about the Armenian-Italian relations formed as a result of years, was ready to strengthen and deepen the cooperation in the fields of mutually beneficial interest.

"During these days we will look through all the possibilities of the cooperation, and comparing with the ideas of Italian businessmen, we will get a good result in dialogue", said the head of the delegation.

## **10. Frank Pallone calls support expanded U.S. aid to Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh [Armenpress, 05/17/11]**

Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ) circulated a letter urging his U.S. House colleagues to support expanded U.S. aid to Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, and a number of other pro-Armenia provisions in the Fiscal Year 2012 foreign aid bill, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

In his letter, Rep. Pallone, calls upon his fellow Representatives to join with him in co-signing a Congressional letter asking the bipartisan leadership of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations to support the inclusion of the following provisions:

- At least \$60 million in economic support funds for Armenia.
- At least \$10 million in development aid to Nagorno Karabakh.
- The strengthening of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act and maintaining military aid parity to Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- The removal of barriers to U.S.-Nagorno Karabakh contacts and communications.
- Support for the reinstatement of Nagorno Karabakh in the OSCE Minsk Group peace process.
- At least \$10 million in military aid to Armenia.

In his letter urging his colleagues to take action, Rep. Pallone cites ongoing Azerbaijani aggression against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh as a primary reason to "enforce current law restricting military aid to Azerbaijan." Rep. Pallone added that, "Short of this, the letter asks that parity in military financing between Armenia and Azerbaijan be restored. The President has broken this long-held policy in International Military Education and Training (IMET) funding for the two countries."

Rep. Pallone goes on to note that, "U.S. funding has also been tremendously helpful in alleviating humanitarian crises in Nagorno Karabakh. We are thus requesting \$10 million in aid for Nagorno-Karabakh and urging that aid be provided for humanitarian and developmental programs. We also ask for an end to any remaining restrictions on official government contact between the United States and Nagorno-Karabakh and that representatives of Nagorno Karabakh be reinstated in the ongoing Minsk Group Peace Process."

## **DIASPORA**

### **11. Hranush Hakobyan received the delegation headed by the Councilor of RA Minister of Diaspora of the Armenian community in Lebanon Maro Nersisyan [Armenpress, 05/17/11]**

On May 16, the Armenian Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan received the delegation headed by the Councilor of RA Minister of Diaspora of the Armenian community in Lebanon Maro Nersisyan. During the meeting they discussed Armenia-Diaspora cooperation, issues related to the Armenian community in Lebanon.

According to the press of RA Ministry of Diaspora, Hranush Hakobyan presented their programs: young journalists school, young leaders school, Return Home, Our Ancestors. They also spoke about education, culture, women and youth related issues of the Armenian community in Lebanon.

## **ARTS**

### **12. Armenian pavilion at Art by Genève Art Fair [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**



The Armenian pavilion achieved unprecedented attention at the "Art by Genève" International Contemporary Art Fair, which was held from April 29 to May 3 in Geneva.

Sona Harutyunyan, head of the RA Culture Ministry contemporary art department, said today at a news conference that Narek Avetisyan's "Simulacrum" project, presented in the pavilion, was the focus of attention of European art lovers.

"The participation in the fair was an unprecedented phenomenon for Armenia, as at last Armenia was given an opportunity to present its contemporary art," Sona Harutyunyan said. She added that RA President Serzh Sargsyan, RA Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Diaspora, a number of NA deputies visited the pavilion. RA Ambassador to Switzerland, world-known singer Charles Aznavour visited the pavilion two times.

Narek Avetisyan's "Simulacrum" project features 33 variations on the theme of Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring", some animation, computer effects and music, written specially for the project.

### **13. Armenia to participate in environmental film festival in Spain [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**

May 13-21 "Ecozine" festival of environmental films will take place in the Spanish town of Saragossa. For the first time films shot by "Arevordi" ("Sunchild") non-governmental organization will take part in the festival. Coordinator of "Ecozine" environmental film festival of the NGO Varvara Hovhannissyan told Armenpress that two works will be presented at the festival. The authors are students of "Arevordi" NGO's Yerevan and Gyumri eco-clubs. The film of Yerevan's eco-club "I do not agree" tells about the issue of stroll dogs and the solution of the issue. The Gyumri's eco-club presented film "Aznavour's Square" which tells about the pollution of the town and the indifference of people toward it.

The films are included in the film's contest program and in case of winning they will get diplomas. Besides the festival the films of children have been elected to participate in the festivals in Brazil, Russia, South Korea.

The students of Yerevan eco-club started the works over scenario of new film and soon the film will be shot.

### **14. Museum Night will be conducted May 14 [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**

"Museum Night" will be conducted May 14 under the auspices of Council of Europe and UNESCO. The night loving society will have an opportunity to get acquainted with the museum collections, increase the level of their awareness. This year the action will be conducted in Armenia under the slogan "Written Memory" dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Armenian printing.

Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan said at a news conference today that the event is being conducted for the seventh time. It united all the 60 museums of provinces.

From May 14 from 6 pm till May 15 12am all the museums will be open.

She also noted that the Ministry of Culture highlights the cooperation with the European museums, establishment of ties, encourages the participation of Armenian museums and their integration into European cultural family.

### **15. Samvel Karapetyan: Azerbaijan eliminates Armenian monuments through a state program [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**

The elimination of Armenian monuments in Azerbaijan is being implemented through a state program, chairman of the Foundation studying Armenian monuments, monument specialist Samvel Karapetyan said at a news conference today, adding that it is not the Artsakh war that destroyed the Armenian monuments. "Azerbaijan destroyed the Armenian monuments during the soviet years, then during the Artsakh war and since 1994 the volume of destructions and the circle expands", Karapetyan said.

According to him, the revenge is being successfully carried out thanks to our indifference. "We are not interested in maintenance of Armenian monuments in Azerbaijan and that is why that country is encouraged in its crime", he said. According to him, Armenian has no right to endanger its historic memory.

### **16. UN Office in Armenia marks World Day for Cultural Diversity [Noyan Tapan, 05/14/11]**



An art exhibition dedicated to the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was opened today in the UN House. It is aimed at providing an opportunity to deepen the understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to better “live together”.

The paintings and sculptures of the Armenian artist Gevorg Msheci, were exhibited. His art works have attracted the attention of youth, artistic community, authorities and civil society representatives, media and the general public.

Maria Dotsenko, UN Department of Public Information Representative said: “The UNDPPI pays attention to promotion of cultural diversity and supports the country’s efforts aimed at guaranteeing that all persons have the right to express themselves and to disseminate their work freely and to participate in the cultural life. Armenia, being located in the crossroads of ancient civilizations, has rich traditions of appreciation of cultural diversity.”

The painter, Gevorg Msheci added: “For more than ten years I have cooperated with the UNDPPI and appreciate their support to the endorsement of Armenian art. This support motivates and encourages me to promote through the art mutual understanding, tolerance and dialogue between people of different nations.”

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 21 May as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and has welcomed the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted by UNESCO in 2001 and the Action Plan for the implementation of this Declaration. Armenia, among other UN Members States, participates in the implementation of this Action Plan.

The exhibition will be open to the public at the UN House until 31 May, 2011 on Mondays to Fridays from 12:00 till 15:00.

## **17. The Cafesjian Center for the Arts will be celebrating Museum Night [Noyan Tapan, 05/14/11]**

On May 14 the Cafesjian Center for the Arts will be celebrating Museum Night, by opening its galleries to the public till midnight for free.

The featured event for Museum Night is the opening of the exhibition “Hagop Hagopian: The Song of Earthen Colors” at 12:00 noon. The exhibition consists of 28 paintings and 10 sculptures representing various periods of the artist’s work. Hagopian, born in Egypt and educated in Paris, conveys profound sadness in his early paintings as a reflection of the Genocide that still haunts the artist’s soul. Already an accomplished artist in his forties, in 1962 Hagopian repatriated to Armenia. The silver-gray and terracotta color scheme of his late fall or early spring paintings emanate a mystic silence. Hagopian’s latest works are deeply philosophical and laden with symbolism. Delving deeply into his past to retrieve images of love, struggle, survival and death, he reconfigures them as mannequins, garments and tools painted against the backdrop of nature.

“It has been a surprise and a joy to me that my works were selected to be exhibited at the newly established Cafesjian Center for the Arts”, Hagop Hagopian notes in the opening remarks for the exhibition.

“The Cafesjian Center for the Arts begins the Museum Night celebration with a major exhibition opening; that of a living legend of Armenian art, Hagop Hagopian. It is with great pride that we present Mr. Hagopian’s work to the people of Armenia and we invite everyone to take this opportunity and tour the galleries on May 14”, said the Acting Executive Director of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts Vahagn Marabyan.

The programming of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts for May 14, Museum Night, includes the reopening of the “Ivana Šrámkova: Geometric Forms and Images” exhibition and resumption of the “Creativity and Imagination” workshops for children aged 6-12.

“Special programming is also planned for International Museum Day on May 18. In keeping with this year’s theme, “Museums and Memory”, the Cafesjian Center for the Arts will present an exhibition titled “Cascade in Memory”. This exhibition lifts the curtain of the past covering the place currently known as the Cascade Complex. It will refresh people’s memory about the history of Yerevan and the Cascade Complex which has become the Cafesjian Center for the Arts”, noted Vahagn Marabyan.

Each year since 1977 the International Council of Museums organizes International Museum Day (IMD), a special moment for the global museum community - on or about May 18. Each year, the Advisory Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) defines a specific theme for International Museum Day. The theme for 2011 is defined as “Museums and Memory: Objects Tell Your Story”. The weekend before the Museum Day is the traditional time for Museum Nights, when museums all over the world keep their doors open till early in the morning, offering special exhibitions and programming. The Cafesjian Center for the Arts is participating in International Museum Day celebrations for the second time since its opening in 2009.



The Cafesjian Center for the Arts (CCA) is dedicated to bringing the best of contemporary art to Armenia and presenting the best of Armenian culture to the world. Inspired by the vision of its founder, Mr. Gerard L. Cafesjian, the Center offers a wide variety of exhibitions, derived from Mr. Cafesjian own extensive collection of contemporary art. Having celebrated its grand opening in November 2009, CCA continues to exhibit unique works of modern art and offers a diverse program of visiting lecturers, films, concerts, and numerous educational initiatives for adults and children.

## **18. Azerbaijan winner of Eurovision 2011 [Armenpress, 05/16/11]**

The winner of the "Eurovision 2011" international song contest became Azerbaijan with the "Running Scared" sing performed by Eldar Qasimov and Nigar Jamal. The song gathered 221 points. The highest 12 points Azerbaijan received from Russia, Turkey and Malta. Ukraine, Greece, Croatia, San Marino, Romania and Moldova gave 10 points to Azerbaijan.

The second came Italy with 189 points. It participated in the contest for the first time after long pause. Sweden came the third with 185 points, followed by Ukraine with 159. The top five is being closed by Denmark with 134 points.

Russian Alexei Vorobyev with "Get You" song took the 16th place getting 77 points. The French representative which was predicted to be the winner took the 15th place with 82 points. Armenia gave the highest points 12 to Ukraine, 10 to Georgia, 8 to Russia.

The "Eurovision 2012" will be conducted in Azerbaijan.

## **SOCIAL**

## **19. Ruben Hayrapetyan and Max Sivaslyan were awarded with "The Gratitude" medal [Noyan Tapan, 05/13/11]**

President Bako Sahakyan signed decrees on awarding. For significant philanthropic activity and substantial contribution to developing football in the republic and in connection with the Victory Day, the Day of the NKR Defense Army and 19th anniversary of the Liberation of Shoushi deputy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, chairman of the Armenian football federation Ruben Hayrapetyan was awarded with "The Gratitude" medal.

According to another Presidential decree for substantial contribution to the mass coverage of the Artsakh liberation struggle and in connection with the Victory Day, the Day of the NKR Defense Army and 19th anniversary of the Liberation of Shoushi French photographer of Armenian origin, correspondent of the "Nouvelles d'Armenie" magazine Max Sivaslyan was awarded with "The Gratitude" medal.

## **20. The "Park Hotel Artsakh" hotel complex opened in Stepanakert [Noyan Tapan, 05/13/11]**

On 11 May President Bako Sahakyan partook at the solemn ceremony of opening the "Park Hotel Artsakh" hotel complex in capital Stepanakert.

The Head of the State considered hotel network corresponding to the modern standards a serious impetus for developing tourism and service in the republic underlining that the state was interested in the existence of such hotels in all the regions of Artsakh.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, premier Ara Haroutyunyan, other officials, philanthropists and representatives of the Diaspora partook at the event.

## **21. Aram Simonyan forwards his candidacy in elections of rector of YSU [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**

Acting rector of the Yerevan State University Aram Simonyan has put his candidacy in the elections of the rector of the YSU. Speaking to Armenpress Simonyan said that he has already presented the program which he said stems from the strategy of the YSU.

"I find it difficult to say whether I will be elected or not. It will not be right. The Administrative Board of the University will get acquainted with the programs and decide who will take the office", Simonyan said.

## **22. Aram Simonyan says interest among Armenian students toward Europe increases [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**



A workshop on "European Union's Role in South Caucasus: from Cooperation to Partnership through Reforms; Challenges and Opportunities" was held today at Yerevan State University. YSU Acting Rector Aram Simonyan welcomed the participants and said the interest toward Europe has increased among Armenian students in the recent years.

According to RA Deputy Foreign Minister Karine Ghazinyan, Armenia-EU relations are mainly reflected in two levels – bilateral relations with the EU institutes and multilateral relations with European states.

"Our relations with the EU have got a qualitative format in the recent period and this is connected with the launching of the Eastern Partnership program," the deputy minister said. She added that Armenia is conducting efficient negotiations with the EU over signing of the Association Agreement. "We highly assess the EU support in the route of building a contemporary society," Karine Ghazinyan said.

According to Ambassador Raul de Luzenberger, head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, all the states, involved in the Eastern Partnership, excluding Belarus, cooperate with the European Union efficiently.

The workshop was organized by YSU and Coimbra University of Portugal.

## **23. The statue of Alexander Mantashyan will be placed in Abovyan street [Noyan Tapan, 05/14/11]**

This year, during the first sitting, the Art council of Yerevan City Hall discussed the placing of the statue of Garegin Nzhdeh in the Square of his name and the offers about the statue of Alexander Mantashyan. The head of the sitting was the Mayor of Yerevan Karen Karapetyan.

According to the department of information and public relations of Yerevan City Hall, the art council approved by voting the placing of the Armenian famous benefactor Alexander Mantashyan's statue.

## **24. US court orders Turkish Government to reply to the sue of heirs of victims of the Armenian genocide within 21 days [Armenpress, 05/12/11]**

US court, examining the sue of three American Armenian heirs against the Government of Turkey, the Central Bank of Turkey and Ziraat Bankasi, ordered the latter to reply to the sue within 21 days.

Head of "Vardges Yeghiayan and Bar Group" office Vardges Yeghiayan told Armenpress that the sue was submitted by Alex Bakalian, Anais Haroutunian and Rita Mahdessian who are asking for 64 million Dollars, in reparation for the property value as well as the derived earnings. The sue relates to the "fig farm" area now known as Incirlik. Since 1951, the area in question is being used as a NATO/US air force base.

## **25. Criminal case over violations in pensions sphere [Armenpress, 05/17/11]**

Criminal case has opened at the Interests' Protection Department of the Prosecutor General Office on the basis of materials of studies conducted by the RA Oversight Chamber at the State Social Insurance Service. Head of the press office of the prosecutor's office Shahen Tonoyan told Armenpress that later the office of the Prosecutor General will come forth with a statement.

As a result of studies in 51 territorial organizations the financial oversight inspection of the Finance Ministry sent a 500-page long report to the prosecutor's office.

The Oversight Chamber has conducted studies at the Social Insurance State Service headed previously by Vazgen Khachikyan and revealed huge violations. A big list of deceased people was found in the name of which pensions were provided for a long time.

## **26. Apartment issues of refugees under the spotlight of the government [Armenpress, 05/17/11]**

International conference on co-financing and possible cooperation with donor organizations for ensuring apartments for the refugees settled in Armenia after being forcibly displaced from Azerbaijan was conducted today in Yerevan. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres, representatives of international organizations participated in the event. The conference was chaired by the Vice Prime Minister of Armenia, Territorial Administration Minister Armen Gevorgyan. He recited the message of the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan addressed to the participants.

Welcoming the participants in his address, the president noted that throughout its history Armenian people were many times forcibly displaced. He said weeks ago Armenia was commemorating



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

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the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and many people stretched their hand of help to the Armenian people, among which is Fridtjof Nansen. This year the 150th anniversary of birthday of the Norwegian public figure will be marked. "We will never forget that being Highest Refugee Commissioner of the League of Nations, Fridtjof Nansen helped so many Armenians that escaped the genocide", the president said in his address.

"Unfortunately, in late 20th century Armenian people again became refugees. As a result of the policy of ethnic cleansing conducted by Azerbaijan more than half millions of Armenians were displaced from their homes in 1988-1992, 360000 of them settled in Armenia", the message said.

From 1992-94 about 72000 people had to abandon their settlements because of being bombed by Azerbaijan. The refugee issue sharpened after the 1988 disastrous earthquake and because of the difficult social-economic situation the newly-independent Armenia faced after its blockade.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said all the resources were used for ensuring roof to peoples - hotels, rest houses, hostels, schools, administrative buildings were used with that aim. A number of refugees found shelter among their friends and relatives.

Today the majority of refugees are not placed in hostels. Poverty dominates, the unemployment level is 2-3 times more. The issue on ensuring apartments for refugees continues to be under the spotlight of the government. The head of the government said a number of steps have been undertaken to smooth the issue. Starting from 2001 the refugees can for free privatize the rooms they have occupied in hostels. Till today about 1200 families made use of it.

António Guterres noted that Armenia is trying to find acceptable solution to the issues of refugees and it must be supported.

"Years ago I had an opportunity to visit one of hostels of these people. Unfortunately they are living in very unfavorable conditions. It is unacceptable", António Guterres said. He added that they fully assist the call of the RA government made via this conference to make it possible to solve the apartment issues of refugees.

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Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

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