



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, September 30, 2011

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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POLITICS

1. Hovik Abrahamyan: Turkey must follow Germany's example, which recognized the Holocaust, and recognize the Armenian Genocide [Armenpress, 09/27/11]

The delegation headed by NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan visited September 26 the House Museum of Johannes Lepsius. The delegation is in Germany on a working visit and is comprised of head of the Armenia-Germany Friendship Group Artak Davtyan, Head of the NA staff Gegham Charibjanyan, and Armenian Ambassador to Germany Armen Martirosyan.

Press service of RA National Assembly told Armenpress that Hovik Abrahamyan walked around in the House Museum of Johannes Lepsius, met with the scientific staff of the museum. Director of the House-Museum, Chairman of "Johannes Lepsius" NGO Hans-Ulrich Schultz presented Lepsius' life and activity in detail.

German political figure, clergyman and specialist of Oriental Studies Johannes Lepsius had been engaged in the Armenian Cause for many years. He condemned the activities of Turkish authorities directed toward annihilation of Armenians and on behalf of his country's government claimed to exert efforts to stop the Armenian massacres. In his works he proved that in the Armenian-populated sites of the Western Armenia and Ottoman Empire an Armenian Genocide was committed during the World War I.



Lepsius participated in organization of protest rallies against the massacre of Armenians, and stressed in his speeches that crime has been committed by the Turkish government under the head of the sultan. "German-Armenian Company" was set up on his initiative to support Armenians, and in 1915 September in a Swiss newspaper "Annihilation of an Entire Nation" article was published, which marked the beginning of a big pro-Armenian campaign. "If there is one nation which is called to become a bearer of high culture with its natural peculiarities, it is the Armenian nation," Johannes Lepsius wrote. Hans-Ulrich Schultz gave "The State of Armenian People in Turkey" work to the NA Speaker.

Addressing the guests, the head of the Armenian parliament pointed out the unappreciable role of Lepsius in marking the beginning of the process on international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. According to Hovik Abrahamyan, recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide is not only the task of Armenian people but of entire international community, as unrecognized and not condemned in time, during the 20th century it made a way for genocides and ethnic annihilations in different parts of the world. "So we look upon recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide by international community and especially Turkey – inheritor of the Ottoman Empire, as the best guarantee of prevention of suchlike crimes," Hovik Abrahamyan said. "Turkey should follow Germany's example, which recognized the Holocaust as a historical truth, and recognize the Armenian Genocide," NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan said.

Wrapping up meeting, NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan made a note in the book for honorary guests.

2. Alexander Iskandaryan: Armenian-Turkish Protocols are not among primary issues in Turkish agenda [Armenpress, 09/27/11]

"I do not see any variant of ratification of the Armenian-Turkish protocols by Turkey", Director of the Caucasus Institute, political specialist Alexander Iskandaryan told today a press conference. He said that he has returned from Turkey the other day and attaches importance especially to this issue.

"At the moment the protocols are not among the primary issues in the Turkish agenda. That country has many other issues to solve both in home and foreign political fields," the political specialist said.

According to him, it is obvious that Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is going to be nominated in presidential elections, which means that surely he will not go to ratification of the protocols in this stage.

Mr. Iskandaryan said that Turkey tries to take a dominating role in Middle East, for which it has adopted an anti-Israeli role. "The game is quite risky, as Israel is connected with the USA," the political specialist noted, stressing that in such a complicated situation the Turkish authorities will not go to ratification of the Armenian-Turkish protocols. To cut it short, as long as Turkey has not been orientated in the issues of the Middle East, the destiny of the protocols will remain unchangeable," Mr. Iskandaryan expressed confidence.

3. Kiro Manoyan: Political rearrangements of Russia not to influence Armenian internal political life [Armenpress, 09/27/11]

The political rearrangements in Russia will not influence the Armenian internal political life, Head of the ARF Armenian Cause and Political Affairs Office Kiro Manoyan told today a press conference. According to him, all the rumors that the political scenario of Russia can be repeated in Armenia are senseless.

"All suchlike considerations are not understandable," Kiro Manoyan said. He pointed out the past rearrangement, when the Russian President became a Prime Minister, but quite another political scenario was used in Armenia. Kiro Manoyan said that Russia's influence is not so huge that whatever happens there is also used in Armenia.

As for change of the political course in case of election of new Russian president, Kiro Manoyan said that some changes are possible in foreign policy if Vladimir Putin is elected. According to him, the differences of the styles of Putin and Medvedev are apparent, which means that changes will take place in the region if Putin becomes a president.

4. U.S. Senate confirms John Heffern's nomination as U.S. Ambassador to Armenia [Armenpress, 09/28/11]



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The U.S. Senate voted by unanimous consent last night to approve John Heffern's nomination as U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) told Armenpress.

"Although we remain disappointed with a number of his responses to Senate inquiries, we look forward, in the coming months and years, to working with Ambassador Heffern to expand U.S.-Armenia relations on the basis of commonly-held values and shared interests, with particular focus on the bilateral trade and investment issues," commented ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian, upon Heffern's confirmation. "Ambassador Heffern can play a vital role in expanding U.S.-Armenia trade, which has yet to reach the \$200 million a year mark, by leading the way toward a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) and an updated Double Taxation Treaty. With these accords in place and a firm commitment by all stake-holders to act decisively and pro-actively, there is no reason we can't reach more than a billion dollars a year in bilateral trade within the next five years."

Mr. Heffern is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and serves as the Deputy Chief of Mission at USNATO, Brussels. Prior to his current post, Mr. Heffern served as Deputy Chief of Mission and Executive Assistant to the Undersecretary for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia.

Mr. Heffern's career has also included overseas assignments to Japan, Malaysia, Ivory Coast and Guangzhou, China. From 1994-1996, he served as a Pearson Fellow on the Asia Sub-Committee for the House International Relations Committee. Prior to entering the Foreign Service, he served in the Office of Senator John C. Danforth as the Senator's Office Director and Research Assistant. He Heffern received a B.A. from Michigan State University.

Mr. Heffern replaces former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch, who returned to the U.S. in June to serve as US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Northern and Central Europe.

5. Catherine Ashton: Nagorno Karabakh issue remains among priorities of our agenda [Armenpress, 09/28/11]

"Nagorno Karabakh issue remains among the priorities of our agenda," Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, stated in front of the European Parliament. Press service of Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed Armenpress.

"Supporting the Minsk Group, we are in a dialogue with all parties to help them find an acceptable solution," Catherine Ashton stressed. She also expressed an opinion that the conflicts in the territories of the member states of the Eastern Partnership, particularly the issues of Nagorno Karabakh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, may hinder in EU association process. "We expect our Eastern partners to do their best for peaceful regulation of these conflicts, which is a strategic priority for the European Union," Catherine Ashton said, particularly stressing that the progress in this sphere will mean a progress in relations with the EU in general.

As a positive step in this direction, the EU High Representative pointed out the fact of appointment of French diplomat Philippe Lefort in the post of EU special representative for South Caucasus and Georgia, whose mandate involves support to peaceful settlement of conflicts in accordance with the principles of International Law.

6. Mutual visits of Armenian and French Presidents to become a new haven on the way of development of Armenian-French relations [Armenpress, 09/28/11]

On September 27, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan paid an official visit to France. Presidential press service told Armenpress that on the first day after the welcoming ceremony Serzh Sargsyan had a working dinner with members of the French National Assembly.

Addressing the parliamentarians President Serzh Sargsyan stressed that development of relations with France occupies an important role in the agenda of Armenia's foreign policy, and stated with gratification that the Armenian-French cooperation is strengthening and deepening in all spheres. The head of the republic expressed confidence that his official visit to France and the upcoming state visit of President Nicolas Sarkozy to Armenia will become a new haven on the way of development of relations between Armenia and France.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed gratitude to the parliamentarians for outstanding contribution to recognition of the Armenian Genocide by France. The President also thanked to French people for warm attitude displayed toward Armenian people, for lending a helping hand to our people in the most difficult moments for them, for understanding their sorrow and affording an opportunity of living and creating in their community. The head of the republic wished permanency to Armenian-French close relations.



7. Matthew Bryza: Karabakh conflict cannot be settled in a military way [Armenpress, 09/29/11]

Karabakh conflict cannot be settled in a military way, US Ambassador to Azerbaijan Matthew Bryza told today a news conference in Baku, commenting on the speech of Russian Foreign Minister Segey Lavrov at the session of the UN General Assembly.

The Russian Foreign Minister, delivering a speech at the session of the UN General Assembly, stated that Russia intends to do its best not to let use of a scenario with force in the Caucasus.

"At the moment nobody speaks about the military way of settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Moreover, I want to say that now the statements on the possible use of force have become rarer. It is a positive tendency," Mr. Bryza said.

According to him, during his numerous meetings with the Azerbaijani officials he noticed that the official Baku seriously treats the settlement of the conflict in a peaceful way, without use of force.

The most important thing in the peaceful settlement of the conflict is the agreement of the basic principles, which is quite available," Mr. Bryza said.

8. Two officials of US Department of State to visit Armenia [Armenpress, 09/29/11]

From September 28 to October 8, Director of the Office of Caucasus Affairs and Regional Conflicts at the U.S. Department of State Justin Friedman will pay a regional visit to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The US Embassy told Armenpress that Justin Friedman intends meetings with state officials and leaders of civil society to discuss issues on bilateral relations, regional stability and peace.

In Armenia Justin Friedman will examine the Armenian-American bilateral relations, focusing on common strategic profits of the bilateral cooperation in the issue of security, economic and democratic reforms.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Eric Rubin will visit the Caucasus Region October 16-22. He will be in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to meet with state officials and leaders of civil society.

In Armenia Eric Rubin will study the Armenian-American bilateral relations, focusing on common strategic profits of the bilateral cooperation in the issue of security, economic and democratic reforms.

9. Serzh Sargsyan meets with Nicolas Sarkozy [Armenpress, 09/29/11]

Within the framework of his official visit to France Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan met today with French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that during a conversation, which followed the solemn welcoming ceremony, the presidents discussed the process and prospects of Armenian-French multi-striped relations.

Welcoming the Armenian President, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said he is impatiently looking forward to his state visit to Armenia, and the format of the visit aims to show the exclusive warmth of relations of the two countries.

Nicolas Sarkozy stressed that France is Armenia's friend and will always be beside Armenia. The French President welcomed the reforms implemented in Armenia under the head of the Armenian President, and noted with gratification that with the volume of investments France is the second country in Armenia.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed gratitude for warm reception and said that our country is interested in expansion of relations with France.

10. Serzh Sargsyan and François Fillon discuss opportunities of expansion of cooperation [Armenpress, 09/29/11]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan met September 28 in Paris with French Prime Minister François Fillon.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the interlocutors welcomed the growth of French investments in Armenia's economy. An agreement was reached to continue to support and encourage the participation of French companies in programs implemented in different spheres of Armenian economy.

President Serzh Sargsyan and Prime Minister François Fillon discussed issues concerning Armenia-EU cooperation. Importance was attached to the assistance of France in Armenia's efforts directed toward EU integration, particularly, within the framework of the EU Eastern Partnership. The



interlocutors noted that those issues will be discussed more thoroughly at the Eastern Partnership summit to be held in Warsaw.

Besides issues on strengthening and development of high-level political, economic ties, the Armenian President and French Prime Minister discussed the opportunities of expansion of cooperation in the spheres of culture and education. Prime Minister François Fillon expressed a hope that the upcoming state visit of Nicolas Sarkozy to Armenia will be marked by new cooperation programs in different spheres.

11. Serzh Sargsyan: Armenian-French friendship is anchored on spiritual and cultural commonalities [Armenpress, 09/29/11]

In the evening of September 28 Armenian and French Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Nicolas Sarkozy attended Charles Aznavour's concert at Olympia Concert Hall dedicated to RA Independence Day.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that this morning within the framework of his official visit Serzh Sargsyan had a working dinner with Armenian and French businessmen.

"The Armenian-French cooperation of many centuries is anchored on religious and cultural commonalities. Those commonalities are so deep that the geographical position has never been an obstacle for continuous reinforcement of the friendship," President Serzh Sargsyan said in his address.

"Invaluable is the role of France in development of Armenia. Armenia has always attached importance to expansion of commercial and economic relations with France, and this meeting will contribute to it. France is a trade and big investment partner of Armenia and occupies the second place with the volume of investments in Armenia's economy. 155 Armenian-French joint ventures are registered in Armenia. We have successful examples of French investments in almost all spheres – telecommunication, production of drinks, banking, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, tourism, agriculture, light industry," the President stated.

In his address the President also referred to the relations between Armenia and EU. "Armenia-EU relations have moved to a new quality level by the launch of the Eastern Partnership. This opens new opportunities for Armenian-French business cooperation," the President said.

Concluding his speech Serzh Sargsyan called on French businessmen to launch active cooperation with Armenian counterparts.

12. Serzh Sargsyan meets with Mayor of Paris and representatives of Armenian community of France [Armenpress, 09/29/11]

Wrapping up the official visit to France, President Serzh Sargsyan left today for Poland to participate in the summit of the Eastern Partnership.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that in France President Sargsyan met with Mayor of Paris Bertrand Delanoë, after which Serzh Sargsyan and the Mayor met with representatives of the Armenian community.

In his address during the meeting with Mayor of Paris and representatives of the Armenian community, Serzh Sargsyan expressed gratitude to the Mayor for invitation and warm reception.

"The friendship of our peoples has a history of centuries, and that friendship has been reformulated to a close and trustful cooperation between the two countries. The past two decades were marked by development of Armenian-French ties at all levels and in all spheres," the President said.

"We are looking forward to French President's visit to Armenia in several days, which is an important event in Armenian-French relations. I am encouraged by our yesterday's meeting with the French President, where one more time I expressed gratitude for recognition of the Armenian Genocide, for distinct position toward Armenia-Turkey relations, Turkey's affiliation with EU, and peaceful settlement of Karabakh conflict.

Concluding his address Serzh Sargsyan expressed gratitude for warm reception and expressed confidence that the relations of Yerevan and Paris sister-cities will develop with high tempo.

13. Speaker of Lebanese National Assembly to arrive in Armenia on an official visit [Armenpress, 09/30/11]

Speaker of Lebanese National Assembly Nabih Berri will pay a three-day official visit to Armenia at the invitation of RA NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan.



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Press service of National Assembly told Armenpress that the Speaker of the Lebanese parliament will meet with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan, Catholicos of All-Armenians Karekin II, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan and Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan.

Nabih Berri's speech at the session of the National Assembly is scheduled for October 4. The delegation headed by Nabih Berri will visit Tsitsernakaberd – memorial complex of victims of the Armenian Genocide, and will put a wreath on the monument of the victims of Mets Yeghern.

DIASPORA

14. Harut Sassounian: Armenia's 20th Anniversary: A Young Republic; an Ancient Nation [Noyan Tapan, 09/28/11] By Harut Sassounian, Publisher, The California Courier

Armenians worldwide had many reasons to celebrate the month of September, as they observed the 20th anniversary of the twin Republics of Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabagh).

Two decades ago, Armenians did not have a single independent Republic. Now they have two, and look forward to the day when the two republics are joined by a third -- Western Armenia -- to form the Republic of United Armenia!

On Sept. 19-20, the Diaspora Ministry organized a Pan-Armenian conference in Yerevan that drew over 500 participants from 50 countries, along with political and religious leaders from Armenia and Artsakh. It was a reunion of Who's Who of the Armenian world.

The conference had four main themes: language and education, youth issues, commemorating the centennial of the Genocide, and strengthening Armenia-Diaspora relations. Some speakers took this opportunity to point out the serious shortcomings that continue to plague Armenia 20 years after independence.

His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of Cilicia, singled out emigration from Armenia as the greatest national crisis. "Our enemies wished to see an Armenia devoid of Armenians", he stated. "Today, we are emptying Armenia with our own hands!" His Holiness also condemned the prevalent "corruption" in the country that protects "a prosperous minority".

Tashnag Party leader, Hrant Markarian, chided government officials for the persistence of poverty, joblessness, stagnant economy, social insecurity, injustice, criminal behavior, corruption, and emigration. He also criticized them for not withdrawing their signature from the "infamous Armenia-Turkey Protocols".

During the panel on the Armenian Genocide -- I was one of the moderators -- the participants suggested training a new generation of Genocide scholars, Ottoman language specialists, Turkologists, and international law experts. They emphasized that the time had come to demand reparations from Turkey rather than mere genocide recognition and urged filing lawsuits against Turkey in international and national courts.

While in Armenia, I experienced many exhilarating moments as well as a few disappointing ones. The military parade on Independence Day was the highlight for all Armenians worldwide -- watching it at Yerevan's Republic Square or on television! The goose-step march of highly disciplined soldiers and display of sophisticated tanks, missiles, warplanes and helicopter gunships filled every Armenian with pride and a sense of security from menacing neighbors! Later that evening, hundreds of thousands of spectators were captivated by a special high-tech laser show that projected scenes from Armenian history on the facade of buildings overlooking Republic Square.

The four locally-manufactured Armenian drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), displayed for the first time during this year's military parade, drew the most attention, especially since the Artsakh forces had just downed a drone Azerbaijan had purchased from Israel! The parade held yet another surprise -- a contingent of women soldiers with machine guns who had volunteered to join the exclusively male Armenian armed forces! Also marching was a contingent of military chaplains in clerical garb.

Two other developments added a special luster to the celebrations of independence. The Mesrob Mashdots Madenataran in Yerevan, the depository of ancient manuscripts, unveiled a massive new wing, funded mostly by Russian-Armenian entrepreneur Sergei Hampartsoumian. On this occasion, Mihran Minassian, a humble man of limited means from Aleppo, Syria, donated to the Madenataran over 10,000 priceless manuscripts and fragments he had collected through his life-long efforts.

A second momentous event in September was the opening of a state of the art terminal at Yerevan's Zvartnots Airport. The new complex can serve up to 3.5 million passengers annually, doubling the airport's capacity. This important project was brought to fruition by industrialist Eduardo Eurnekian of



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Argentina who controls "Armenia International Airports" the concessional management firm overseeing the airport.

Two sour notes: Some of the Independence Day t-shirts handed out to participants of the Pan-Armenian Conference carried a surprising "Made in Turkey" label! The t-shirts were embossed with the following slogan in Armenian: "2011: Armenia is You". Embarrassed officials explained that the t-shirts were donated by a local businessman!

More embarrassing was the no-show of the two former Presidents of Armenia at any of the Independence Day celebrations. Regardless of the reasons for their absence, this was a serious mistake by the two heads of state who had led the Republic of Armenia for 17 of its 20 years of independence! Despite all of its shortcomings, all Armenians fervently embrace their homeland with a solemn pledge to defend and protect it, and do their utmost to secure the well-being and prosperity of their compatriots in Armenia and Artsakh!

15. St. Leon Armenian Cathedral Celebrates Armenia's 20 Years of Independence – RA President Serzh Sargsyan in Attendance [Noyan Tapan, 09/29/11]

Hundreds of Diocesan faithful flocked the spiritual center of the Western Diocese on September 25, 2011, the Feast day of the Holy Cross of Varak. At the invitation of the Diocesan Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Archbishop Yeprem Tabakian, the Very Rev. Fr. Muron Aznikian and the Very Rev. Fr. Bartev Gulumian, members of the Brotherhood of the Great House of Cilicia, Fr. Krikor Chahinian, Pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Catholic Church in Glendale, and Very Rev. Joseph Matossian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America participated in the service.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Armenia, His Excellency Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia attended the service and was greeted by the faithful with cheers and applause. Accompanying President Sargsyan were high-ranking officials of the RA government including Edward Nalbandyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hranush Hakobyan, Minister of the Diaspora; Tatoul Markarian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States; and Grigor Hovhannissian, Consul General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles.

With the participation of the Khachadourian Choir, the Order of Thanksgiving Prayer to the Republic of Armenia (Hanrabadagan Maghtank) was conducted at the conclusion of the service. On Sunday, September 25, this exact prayer echoed throughout all parishes across the Western Diocese.

"The historic visit of His Excellency President Serzh Sargsyan to the Western Diocese fills our hearts with overwhelming joy. For two decades, our Motherland Armenia has been free and sovereign. The Armenian community of the Diaspora shares the joy of a free Armenia with our fellow compatriots in the Homeland. May our risen Lord bestow His grace on our homeland, keep it under His loving protection, and guide all its citizens-our brothers and sisters-in their heroic work to build a decent, prosperous, and just society," said the Primate in his address to the President.

The service concluded with the singing of the national anthem of the Republic of Armenia and was followed by a procession to the Turpanjian Plaza of the Western Diocese. A crowd of more than two hundred people had gathered to greet President Serzh Sargsyan and witness the beautiful performances of traditional Armenian dances by the students of Vartan and Siranush Gevorkian Dance Academy.

ARTS

16. Exhibition dedicated to 20th anniversary of foundation of American University of Armenia [Armenpress, 09/27/11]

A series of paintings called "Fences" will open September 28 at "Paramaz Avetisyan" sub-building. Gyumri artists Hrach Vardanyan and Karen Alekyan, who are the authors of the works, have dedicated the exhibition to the 20th anniversary of foundation of the American University of Armenia (AUA). AUA Public Relations Department told Armenpress that the series includes 15 paintings. They will be presented to the art-loving society in a unique way: the paintings will be arranged in a way to look like a fence.

Karen Alekyan presents the series of "Fences" as a documentation of the post-soviet situation. And Hrach Vardanyan will exhibit 7 paintings dedicated to the 20th anniversary of AUA, as well as all the works of the author will be presented in appearance of an album. The exhibition will be followed by a concert.



17. Traveling Books in Yerevan Streets [Armenpress, 09/28/11]

"BookCrossing Armenia" initiative will start October 2 its second event on "Book Traveling From Hand to Hand". Armen Ghazaryan, coordinator of "BookCrossing Armenia" initiative, told Armenpress that this method of spread of books is news and its basis was laid in 2001 in the United States of America.

"The goal of the initiative is simple. All the participants leave their book in any site of Yerevan, and then inform about it via "Facebook" social net. The one who wants to read that book finds it, reads and then puts back in the same place," Armen Ghazaryan said, stressing that up to now the contact between the participants of the initiative has been established mainly through social networks. The website of the initiative will open in the nearest future, giving an opportunity to provide more professional and comprehensive information for participants of the initiative.

Answering the question how participants avoid groundless losses of books, Mr. Ghazaryan said that the books have special distinctive marks, and besides, they are mainly left in well-known cafes, and book stores. "Of course, there are also cases when books are "forgotten" in any public place," Armen Ghazaryan said.

18. 85th anniversary of Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra to be celebrated [Armenpress, 09/29/11]

Within the frameworks of the 5th Yerevan International Music Festival, a concert dedicated to 85th anniversary of Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra will be held October 1 at "Aram Khachaturyan" concert hall. Within the frameworks of the concert, world-famous violinist Daishin Kashimoto will perform together with the orchestra. The latter expressed his joy and happiness for participation in the festival and in such an anniversary concert.

To note, the program of the jubilee festival will be concluded October 12, and the jubilee events will be summed up at the end of this year by a gala concert.

19. Armenian distinguished composers in Gyumri [Armenpress, 09/29/11]

The Armenian Ministry of Culture and "Armenian Music Conference" organized today in Gyumri a concert-meeting on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia. Before presenting their works to the students of the Gyumri branch of Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas, the composers arrived in Gyumri – Vahram Babayan, Levon Chaushyan, Gevorg Badalyan, Arsen Babajanyan, Yervand Yerkanyan, Martin Vardazaryan and Armenuhi Karapetyan, met with journalists. Chairman of "Armenian Music Conference", composer Levon Chaushyan, attaching importance to tradition of suchlike meetings as a best variant of spread of art, expressed hope that the meeting will become periodical hereafter.

The conference, whose main goal is to spread the Armenian music in the world and Armenia, has already established creative ties in different courtiers, but organizes a meeting in the republic for the first time. In future suchlike meetings will be held in other provinces of the republic.

All the guests, attaching importance to these meetings, expressed a confidence that this is not only a method of presetting high-class music outside the capital, but of revealing new names as well.

20. Armenia - Your Partner 2011 international exhibition in Yerevan [Armenpress, 09/30/11]

"Armenia –You Partner 2011" international exhibition opened today in Karen Demirchyan Sport and Concert Complex. RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan attended it. He walked around in the pavilions, familiarizing himself with the companies' activity and presented products.

According to Director of "Prom Expo" company Vahagn Mirijanyan, about 200 Armenian and foreign organizations engaged in spheres of healthcare, agriculture, tourism, insurance, industry, innovations and information technologies, construction, and food industry participate in the exhibition, presenting more than 500 types of products.

Tigran Sargsyan welcomed the participants of the expo and noted that this event enables Armenian producers to properly present the products and services of our country. According to the head of the government, the exhibition is a platform, thanks to which local companies will be able to sign cooperation agreements with foreign partners, expanding their ways of cooperation.

Representatives of different companies arrived from Russia, Iran, Georgia, Bulgaria, Czechia and Great Britain participate in the exhibition. "Armenia –You Partner 2011" will work till October 2.



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RELIGION

21. Catholicos of All-Armenians receives students of National Seminary in Sidney [Armenpress, 09/27/11]

Today in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Catholicos of All-Armenians Karekin II received students of "Arshak and Sophie Golsten" Seminary in Sydney (Australia) and addressed his blessing and good wishes to them. Thirty-five students of 10th and 11th grades of the Seminary have visited the homeland on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the seminary.

The press service of the Mother See told Armenpress that His Holiness welcomed that the students traditionally visit Armenia. "I am sure that your visit will leave its trace in your spirits and becoming stronger in Armenian feelings, and proud of your national identity, you will return to continue your education with greater delight, having valuable sons and daughters and making your contribution to the progress of the Armenian life," the Catholicos of All-Armenians said.

His Holiness also highly assessed the pedagogues and board of the Seminary, who do their best to educate their sons with Armenian spirit and national consciousness. On behalf of "Arshak and Sophie Golsten" Seminary in Sydney Armenian language teacher Betty Marashlyan expressed deep gratitude to His Holiness for warm reception. Afterward the Catholicos answered the students' questions, which concerned the current life of the Armenian Church and its mission in the life of our people.

SOCIAL

22. Event at YSLU dedicated to RA Independence Day [Armenpress, 09/27/11]

Today at Yerevan State Linguistic University after V. Brusov, an event entitled "We are Armenia" was held. The students of the university came forth with a concert program. YSLU Vice-Rector for Administrative and Business Affairs Gabriel Balayan said that during the 20 years Armenian people have managed to create the basis of the Armenian statehood. According to him, we all are moving to a new stage now, where we should approach European families. Mr. Balayan said that everybody should make his/her contribution to that issue and support in consolidation of the republic.

Director of Armenian Youth Foundation Alexander Ter-Hovakimyan wished a devoted and purposeful work to Armenian people for the welfare of the Armenian nation and for consolidation of the state. "We are Armenia" event was organized by YSLU student council and Armenian Youth Foundation.

23. Armenian theme at International Scientific Conference of Alexandria [Armenpress, 09/29/11]

The fourth international scientific conference on the history of book printing in the Middle East launched its works September 27 in the renowned Library of Alexandria. Seventy-five specialists from nearly 20 countries of the world, including Egypt, Armenia, the USA, France, the Netherlands, the Great Britain, Germany, Canada, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey, Azerbaijan, participate in the conference.

Press service of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Armenpress that taking into consideration the 500th anniversary of Armenian book printing in 2012 and the circumstance of proclamation of Yerevan a World Book Capital by UNESCO, Armenia had a special status of an honorary guest at the conference.

In his welcoming speech Director of the Library of Alexandria Ismail Serageldin referred to the historical path of Armenia, Armenian-Egyptian warm and traditional ties. He specially stressed the Armenians' role in development of book printing in Egypt, simultaneously attaching importance to world-spread Armenians' outstanding contribution to their scientific-cultural life.

Ambassador Melkonyan expressed gratitude to the organizers of the scientific conference on behalf of the RA Ministry of Culture for giving a central place to the Armenian theme. The first two sessions of the scientific conference were fully dedicated to the tradition and history of the Armenian book printing.

Within the framework of the three-day scientific conference an exhibition of the originals of Armenian old-model books selected from the collections of two important scientific and cultural establishments – Matenadaran and Museum of Literature and Art, was held in the Library of Alexandria.

24. Help Remote Schools of Artsakh program launched [Armenpress, 09/29/11]



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, September 30, 2011

Within the framework of "Help Your School" and "Help Your Kindergarten" programs Yerevan Mayor's Office has come forth with "Help Remote Schools of Artsakh" unique initiative. Yerevan Chekhov School N 55 and Kindergarten N 47 have immediately responded to the idea.

Press service of Yerevan Mayor's Office told Armenpress that the joint delegation of the general education department of Yerevan Mayor's Office, School N 55 and Kindergarten N 47, headed by representative of the general education department of the Mayor's Office Gayane Soghomonyan, visited the school of Nakhijevanik Village of Askeran Region, NKR. The members of the delegation handed bags, stationary, literature, as well as stationary provided by charitable organizations, computers, desks and chairs for pre-school pupils. And the children of the kindergarten, located in the building of Nakhijevan School, received toys, stationery, copybooks for painting and games developing the logic, etc from their Yerevan friends and their parents.

"This is an initiative which prompts us to lend a helping hand to our schools and kindergartens in Artsakh. I am sure that in the nearest future other Yerevan schools, kindergartens and organizations too will join the initiative of supporting Artsakh schools. Mother Land's support to Artsakh will be manifested this way, too," Gayane Soghomonyan said.

"Within the framework of "Help Your School" program about 641 million AMD has been allocated to the schools of the capital up today. And 302 million AMD has been extended to "Help Your Kindergarten" program.

Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

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