



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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AGBU NEWS

1. Bako Sahakyan has working meetings in New York [Armenpress, 11/17/11]

On 16 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan arrived in New York. On the same day Bako Sahakyan met president of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Berge Setrakian and members of the organization's central board.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress issues related to carrying out different projects in Artsakh were discussed during the meeting.

President Sahakyan noted that the AGBU has played an important role in the development of our republic and even today its assistance is needed in different spheres of Artsakh's life. At the same time the Head of the State underlined that there is a need to give a new impetus to the activities of the organization in Artsakh.

Head of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church's Eastern Diocese of America Archbishop Khazhak Barsamyan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the USA Tatoul Markaryan, permanent representative of the Republic of Armenia to UN Karen Nazaryan, head of the central information department of the office of the NKR President David Babayan, NKR permanent representative to USA and Canada Robert Avetisyan and other officials partook at the meeting.

POLITICS

2. Ashton satisfied with progress in Armenia-EU relations [Armenpress, 11/18/11]

"This will not be my last visit. I am pleased with the progress in bilateral relations," EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton told at a joint news conference with the Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian.

The minister said that there had been many opportunities to meet in the European capitals and he was very glad to welcome Ashton in Yerevan. This is the first visit of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to Armenia. "We are glad that the relations between Armenia and the EU are developing dynamically. These relations are based on the same system of values," Nalbandian said.



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In a week the sitting of the EU-Armenia cooperation council will take place in Brussels during which steps toward reinforcement of Armenia-EU relations will be discussed. The minister said Armenia may clearly state that these relations are really actively developing.

Ashton expressed her delight connected with the progress in the Armenia-EU relations. "I think we have really registered a big progress in reinforcement of these relations," she noted.

3. ANCA seeks to block special tribal trade deals with Turkey [Armenpress, 11/18/11]

Armenian and Hellenic Americans from across the United States are calling on members of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee to vote against legislation that would, if adopted as introduced, create special trade advantages for Turkey in its dealings with Indian tribes, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

An ANCA action alert calls on Members of this panel to oppose H.R.2362 based on a number of criteria, including the following three points:

- The U.S. Congress should not extend special economic benefits - particularly in relation to Indian tribes - to a country that remains an unrepentant perpetrator of genocide against millions of its own indigenous minorities, including Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, and others.

- The U.S. Congress should not reward Turkey when it is blockading Armenia, threatening Cyprus, antagonizing Israel, attacking its own Kurdish population, and increasingly undermining U.S. regional priorities.

- The U.S. Congress should not risk violating our nation's other trade agreements by putting Turkey at the head of the line, ahead of other countries that have been reliable and friendly allies of the United States.

4. Serzh Sargsyan: We see Armenia's future as a prosperous country built according to European standards [Armenpress, 11/18/11]

President Serzh Sargsyan received today the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, who has arrived to Armenia in the framework of a regional visit. The President of Armenia welcomed Catherine Ashton and noted that Armenia attaches importance to the strengthening and consistent deepening of the relations with the European Union. The President mentioned with satisfaction that recently dialogue with the EU colleagues has become more dynamic in bilateral as well as multilateral formats.

According to Serzh Sargsyan, the meeting with Mrs. Ashton, held on the margins of the Second Summit of Eastern Partnership in Warsaw, provided a good opportunity to exchange views on forthcoming steps and determine areas of cooperation. Noting, that development of the Armenia-EU relations is a process towards the expansion of cooperation based on common values, President Sargsyan said, "Our goal is precise and we have stated on many occasions that we see Armenia's future as a prosperous country built according to European standards, and we are following that path steadfastly."

Catherine Ashton noted that she was happy to register progress observable in the Armenia-EU bilateral relations. The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy stressed the importance of strengthening Armenia-EU relations and hailed the work aimed at the deepening of the bilateral cooperation. "I would like to say words of appreciation and express thanks to all those whose enthusiasm made that progress possible," Catherine Ashton said.

Participants of the meeting spoke also about reforms conducted in Armenia, assessing them as a part of cooperation with the European Union.

Serzh Sargsyan and Catherine Ashton discussed also regional issues.

5. Bako Sahakyan discusses issues related to implementation of different projects in the NKR [Armenpress, 11/18/11]

On 17 November Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan met in New York American philanthropist Virginia Davis and discussed with her issues related to realizing different projects in the NKR.

Central information department of the office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that the NKR President rated high the readiness of the philanthropist to assist Artsakh noting that long term and systemized cooperation was very demanded in our republic.



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Head of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, head of the central information department of the office of the Artsakh Republic President David Babayan, NKR permanent representative to USA and Canada Robert Avetisyan partook at the meeting.

6. NKR President meets in the USA representatives of the Armenian community [Armenpress, 11/18/11]

On 17 November US Eastern Regional body of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian organized in New York a state dinner in honor of the Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan with the participation of Armenian community representatives.

Central information department of the office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that President Sahakyan introduced to the attendees socioeconomic situation in the NKR, problems it faces and development prospects. The NKR President underlined that the people of Artsakh are resolute in further strengthening their independent statehood and within this context called the Artsakh-Armenia-Diaspora trinity the basis of all achievements. Bako Sahakyan rated high the role of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian fund in the development of Artsakh qualifying it one of the most important junctions in practical cementation of the inter-Armenian ties.

Head of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the USA Tatoul Markaryan, permanent representative of the Republic of Armenia to UN Karen Nazaryan, head of the central information department of the office of the NKR President David Babayan, NKR permanent representative to USA and Canada Robert Avetisyan and other officials partook at the event.

7. Bako Sahakyan meets Primate of Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church [Armenpress, 11/21/11]

On 20 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan partook at a Sunday religious service held at the St. Leon Cathedral of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Los Angeles.

The NKR President thereupon held a meeting with the diocese's primate Archbishop Hovnan Derderyan, members of the diocesan council and representatives of the local Armenian community.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress issues related to socioeconomic situation in the NKR and further deepening the Artsakh-Diaspora relations were discussed during the meeting. President Sahakyan rated high the activities of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church in preserving the Armenian national identity, cementing the Motherland-Diaspora ties and assisting Artsakh.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, consular general of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles Grigor Hovhannisyan, head of the central information department of the office of the Artsakh Republic President David Babayan, NKR permanent representative to USA and Canada Robert Avetisyan and other officials partook at the meeting.

8. The USA condemns incident on the line of contact [Armenpress, 11/21/11]

US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern who participated today at the reopening of pediatric department of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Medical Center referred to the fact of killing of two Armenian servicemen by the Azerbaijani snipers on the line of contact November 19 and 20.

"We are condemning the incidents that took place on the line of contact and extend our sympathies to the families of the victims," Heffern told the reporters.

He stressed that the USA hopes that the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group will bring to the peaceful and just settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

"Each manifestation of violence is condemned, and we are seeking to have our contribution to the peaceful settlement of the conflict through the activity in the OSCE Minsk Group," the US ambassador said.

November 19 an Armenian serviceman Aren Simonyan was killed by Azerbaijani sniper while implementing his duty. November 20 another serviceman Mihran Margaryan was killed from the bullet shot from the Azerbaijani side.

9. Tigran Sargsyan applied to Prosecutor General's Office by mediation [Armenpress, 11/22/11]



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The other day a number of mass media have referred to the statements and accusations of citizen Harutyun Araqelyan, as well as to the continuous and obvious attempts of blackmail.

On November 21, Press Secretary of RA Prime Minister Aram Ananyan has circulated information in this regard. "We inform that Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan has applied today to the Prosecutor General's Office by mediation, in order the claims mentioned in citizen Harutyun Araqelyan's statements are examined and a criminal case is provoked according to the statements," the information provided to "Armenpress" by Aram Ananyan reads.

10. The most important guarantor of all the victories and achievements of the independent Armenian statehood and our nation is unity: Bako Sahakyan [Armenpress, 11/22/11]

On 21 November an official reception in honor of the Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan was organized at the General Consulate of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles.

President Sahakyan noted that further deepening and strengthening ties between the Motherland and the Diaspora to a greater extent depends also on California, which is home for one of the most important Armenian communities in the world. Within this context Bako Sahakyan considered important the activities of the General Consulate both in developing relations with the Diaspora and objective presentation of the Artsakh issue in the USA.

The NKR President underlined that the most important guarantor of all the victories and achievements of the independent Armenian statehood and our nation is unity, which must be preserved and further strengthened by all means possible.

Head of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, head of the central information department of the office of the Artsakh Republic President David Babayan, NKR permanent representative to USA and Canada Robert Avetisyan, leaders of traditional political parties and various organizations, clergymen, representatives of the local Armenian community partook at the event.

BUSINESS

11. "ArmNet 2011" Project has started [Armenpress, 11/17/11]

Today an official start to the "ArmNet Awards 2011" pan-Armenian web-contest and "ArmNet 2011" series of events has been given.

The organizers of ArmNet 2011 project are SP Marketing Solutions, Orange Armenia and ISOC (The Internet Society) companies.

ArmNet 2011 presents a total of three events aimed at the development of information technologies in the RA, 2 of which were held in the frames of ArmNet 2010, and one event will be held for the first time in 2011.

"ArmNet 2011" is designed to evaluate the achievements of the Armenian sector of the Internet and contribute to its further development.

First event of the project is "Armnet Awards 2011" Armenian website contest that aims to identify and award the best web-resources of the Armenian sector of the Internet.

As a result of the contest best Armenian websites will be awarded with "ArmNet Awards 2011" prize in following 8 categories: Design and Usability; Innovation; Technological Development Content; Breakthrough of the Year; Grand Prix; People's Choice; Special Orange Armenia Award, for the best mobile website.

Jurors of "ArmNet Awards 2011" will look through and estimate all websites announced for the contest and choose the winners by categories.

In parallel with jury's work, an SMS-voting, provided and supervised by Nikita Mobile Company will be carried out. Everyone will be able to vote for favorite websites, by sending an SMS, with a special code of participant website. It is allowed to vote only once for any website, but the number of sites for which visitors can vote from one number is unlimited. This will define the winner in "People's Choice" category.

The competition results will be announced on 3rd December, at an official award ceremony.

"We are confident that we can recreate that exciting and dynamic atmosphere that was unique for ArmNet 2010. This year's competition will uncover and publicize new, high-quality online resources created by Armenian specialists that otherwise might stay unknown. Resources such as, for example, the website of



Parajanov museum, winner of the "ArmNet Awards 2010" in several categories," said Haykuhi Taksildaryan, the Director of SP Marketing Solutions, during the press conference.

"We are pleased to join this project, which will become a unique experience for our NGO. We've been supporting and managing Armenian domain market and all sorts of IT projects since 1997. Today it is very important for us to participate and contribute to the identification of best local web-resources. Such projects play an important role in the development and promotion of the Armenian IT market," said Igor Mkrtumyan, President of "The Internet Society of Armenia" NGO.

ArmNet 2011 also includes the annual IT conference on web technologies and their implementation in various businesses. The conference will be held on December 3 and will be presented by well known local and international IT experts. This year's main topic of the conference is "Internet goes mobile, computing goes cloud".

This year the conference's speakers and guests are Raffi Krikorian, Twitter Engineering Manager of the Application Services team, Vladimir Isayev, Opera Software CIS Communications Manager, Dmitri Danilenko, Begun Commercial Director, Stanislav Vidaev, Google Russia Senior analytic, specialist in Google analytics, Thomas Kohler, France Telecom Portal and NExT Product Line Vice President, Yaroslav Greshilov, Artviko Research Bureau Managing Partner among others.

Bruno Duthoit, General Director of Orange Armenia, said: "ArmNet 2011 has a very authoritative jury and conference guests. The one-time presence of all these people in Yerevan will help create a very special atmosphere, where Armenian specialists will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and business cards with their famous colleagues. As a company that provides Internet services and is the leader of the mobile internet market, we feel a great responsibility to support the development of the Internet environment in Armenia. We are glad to present this large and wonderful IT-holiday for the second time in Yerevan".

In the frames of "ArmNet 2011", for the first time in Armenia a "Start-up weekend Yerevan" competition will be held, that will gather all the enthusiasts of this field and provide them with an opportunity to develop, test and implement their innovative projects.

The purpose of this project is to encourage entrepreneurship in IT market. The organizers hope, that as a result of the competition a number of innovative Armenian companies will be created. The project will make a substantial contribution to the establishment and development of innovative government in RA.

12. Armenian and Turkish businessmen want to boost bilateral economic ties: Arsen Ghazaryan [Armenpress, 11/22/11]

Businessmen of Armenia and Turkey continue displaying interest in the development of economic relations between the two countries, Chairman of the Armenian Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen Arsen Ghazaryan said today at the opening of the two-day Armenian-Turkish business forum. According to him, Turkey's political leadership will understand its interests and will do its best for the opening of the Armenian-Turkish border.

"It is the first time when we have 52 business representatives from six provinces of Turkey. We are trying to deepen more the existing economic ties, develop them, create an opportunity for exporting at least few Armenian products to Turkey," Ghazaryan said. He pointed out that with the development of economic relations the Armenian and Turkish businessmen are trying to show the Turkish government that even in case of closed borders and embargo the two countries still cooperate with each other. Founder of Turkish TAPDC Noyan Soyak considered remarkable that even in case of closed borders the trade turnover is about 200 million USD. There is no export to Turkey from Armenia: it is one-sided. Soyak voiced hope that in near future the volume will be increased and shops with Armenian products will appear in Turkey.

ARTS

13. Works of Moko and Hayk Melikyan – at "Epicenter" [Armenpress, 11/18/11]

An exhibition-concert of Moko (Mariam) Khachatryan and famous pianist Hayk Melikyan entitled "Epicenter" was held today in Yerevan Museum of Modern Art.

Coordinator of the exhibition, head of RA Culture Ministry's Modern Art Department Sona Harutyunyan noted that the preliminary works of the project have taken quite a long time, for such an event has been organized in Armenia for the first time.



"This innovative project involves two artists, who have their unique places in their spheres," said Sona Harutyunyan, calling the project "a live dialogue with art".

Moko Khachatryan, who has had numerous exhibitions in Armenia and abroad, noted with delight that this is her first cooperation with the musician. The artist exhibited 24 works, which she painted in 2 months thanks to great inspiration.

There was one more surprise for the guests of the exhibition-contest: Moko painted within the piano improvises of Hayk Melikyan before the eyes of the spectator.

14. The 500th anniversary of Armenian Typography to be marked in the largest library in the world [Armenpress, 11/21/11]

The 500th anniversary of Armenian Typography will be marked in the Library of the US Congress. Citing Nouvelles d'Armenie magazine, Armenpress reports that about 50 Armenian books, including the first printed Armenian book "Urbatagirk" printed in 1512 in Venice by Hakob Meghapart will be presented. Armenian books printed after 1512 and in 1695 will also be presented.

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world by shelf space and number of books. It has 147,093,357 total items.

SOCIAL

15. Students manage Yerevan State University [Armenpress, 11/18/11]

Yerevan State University (YSU), too, participated in the events dedicated to International Students Day. Here November 17 started by a sitting of the university administration, and the rectors, pro-rectors and deans participating in the sitting were students.

"Students manage the university" program was the first from the series of events dedicated to International Students Day. A competition of compositions under the title "What I would do, if I were a university rector" had been announced, and the winners took the roles of YSU rector, pro-rector and deans of faculties.

The November 17 sitting of the university administration was chaired by student of the faculty of Romano-Germanic Philology Laura Simonyan. "It is high honor for me to be the first woman rector," said Laura.

After the sitting, "Student 2011" concert-awarding ceremony was held already the third year in the large hall of YSU head building.

16. Taron Margaryan promises to serve for capital's prosperity [Armenpress, 11/18/11]

The swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Mayor of Yerevan Taron Margaryan took place November 18 at the ceremonial sitting of the Council of Elders of Yerevan. President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan, high ranking officials, ex-mayors of Yerevan, public, political, cultural figures attended the event.

The mayor promised to follow the RA Constitution, laws, decision of the Yerevan Council of Elders, serve for capital's prosperity, welfare of its residents.

President Serzh Sargsyan congratulated the newly elected mayor wishing him strength, enthusiasm and success. The president expressed gratitude to the former mayor Karen Karapetyan for his contribution to Yerevan's history.

17. Tsvetana Paskaleva to stay in Armenia until final victory of Karabakh [Armenpress, 11/18/11]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan was among the first to receive "The Wounds of Karabakh" CD from the author of the film, journalist, documentary film author Tsvetana Paskaleva. The presentation of the film took place in Yerevan November 18. Paskaleva said she will not leave Armenia until the final victory of Artsakh.

"When I visited Karabakh I saw that the people are always concerned. I consider them all heroes. I did not think I would have so much strength to see these scenes, and I decided to stay by their sides," Paskaleva said. She noted that all her films about Karabakh were created during cold, severe days when they had worked without heating.

"I have passed this way with difficulty, it was stony and thorny. I was deprived of education, I left my homeland but I do not regret. This is my home. When I leave Armenia for a month I feel parentless. I



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have sworn in on the grave of the hero guys that I would shoot this films and I have kept my promise," she said.

Leader of the country Serzh Sargsyan said Paskaleva has done a huge work. "It is a work that gives full picture of what happened. Not only Armenian but foreign authors of documentaries created works on this issue but Paskaleva managed to give full idea. We all must manage to convince the world in national rightness of the Karabakh people. I am sure Paskaleva will become the most active participant of this fight," President Sargsyan.

Tsvetana Paskaleva has shot 7 films about Nagorno Karabakh in six languages – Armenian, Russian, English, French, Spanish and Bulgarian.

The whole income received from the purchasing of the CDs will be directed to different institutions of Nagorno Karabakh.

18. Even 25-storeyed building cannot be build near Moscow cinema: architects [Armenpress, 11/21/11]

The construction of Persian Tower near the Yerevan Moscow cinema is dangerous in respect of seismic safety, elimination of cultural layers and height of storeys. Head of the Armenian Union of Architects Mkrtych Minasyan expressed today to reporters his concern about the construction of the building. According to him, the constructor is an Iranian company that has received permission of project task in 2009. The permission is in force for two years, these two years have passed and the permission has lost its force. Minasyan says the alarm of specialists is justified as always proposals of building high-storeyed building in this bought territory are being received thus it is necessary to prevent this step. The cinema cannot work normally in the neighborhood of such a high building.

Chairman of the Yerevan City Hall's Council of Elders' Urban Development Committee Hrach Poghosyan clarified that the territory was bought in 90s by an Iranian company. Previously it belonged to the Union of Artists. From the very beginning it was aimed to build a 50-storeyed building but a task of 25 has been given. Nevertheless, specialists say that even 25-storeyed building cannot be build there. Mkrtych Minasyan noted that they will discuss the issue at the general assembly of architects.

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.