



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### IN THIS ISSUE

1. Turkey must accept its mistakes: Editor of CNN Türk calls on authorities
2. Denial of Armenian Genocide in Slovakia to be punished with up to 5 years' imprisonment
3. Prosecutor's General Office gives process to the PM's mediation
4. Czechia underlines the necessity of peaceful settlement of NK conflict
5. Armenian embassy opens in Prague
6. Armenia opens two new embassies in European countries
7. Israeli Knesset to discuss recognition of Armenian Genocide in early December
8. Eastern Partnership will not suffer from crisis of Europe – Karen Bekaryan about latest developments
9. Artsakh's IT sphere to develop in parallel with Armenian
10. Turkish businessmen participate in "Shirak EXPO 2011" exhibition
11. By the end of the year Armenia is expected to receive 800 thousand tourists
12. Bako Sahakyan received American Armenian entrepreneurs
13. Bako Sahakyan received American Armenian philanthropists
14. In honor of the Artsakh Republic President was organized at the General Consulate of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles
15. Bako Sahakyan received the delegation of the Armenian Assembly of America's Southern California Regional Council
16. Bako Sahakyan highlights role of traditional Armenian parties in the Diaspora's life
17. Arsho's canvases aimed at strengthening tolerance
18. Religious leaders urge withdrawal of snipers from the line of contact
19. Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill awarded with St. Mesrop Mashtots Medal
20. Hayastan All-Armenian Fund telethon raises 12,286,478 USD
21. The Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs had a meeting with the students of the American University of Armenia
22. Armenia ranked 46th in FIFA rating list

### POLITICS

1. Turkey must accept its mistakes: Editor of CNN Türk calls on authorities [Armenpress, 11/24/11]

Turkish journalist, political commentator and writer Mehmed Ali Birand, who is the editor of CNN Türk, stated that Turkey must face its history and accept its mistakes.

Armenpress reports that in the article published in Hurriyet Daily News, Birand mentions that all the countries face the black pages of their history sooner or later. "We have not spoken of our past openly up today. It also concerns the Armenian Cause. Rejecting everything, we only deceive ourselves," he stressed and called on the authorities not to play any more.

The Turkish commentator thinks that Turkey will not save itself, insisting that "it was committed by the Ottoman Empire". "The 100th year of the Armenian events is approaching. If we do not take any steps, we will not be understood and all the crimes will be put on us. During his visit to Algeria several years ago Turkish former Prime Minister Turgut Özal apologized for the thing that during the French colonialism period Turkey did not stand up for the liberation fighting of Algeria. We did not lose because of it, but won. Let's leave aside the issues of home politics and look at those events from a wider side of an angle. Let's look at the face of the past," the Turkish commentator called on the authorities.

2. Denial of Armenian Genocide in Slovakia to be punished with up to 5 years' imprisonment [Armenpress, 11/24/11]

Ashot Grigoryan, head of the Armenian community in Slovakia, chairman of the Forum of Armenian Unions of Europe, received the other day Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Slovakia Stefan Harabin. The latter stated that the bill criminalizing the Armenian Genocide



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

---

denial, which was submitted to the National Council years ago, has already been confirmed and received a power of law, press secretariat of the Forum of Armenian Unions of Europe told Armenpress.

During his official visit to Armenia two years ago, as a deputy prime minister and a justice minister, Mr. Harabin stated that he has prepared an amendment for the law on punishing those who will deny the Jewish Holocaust, thanks to which that law would also be spread on the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide Resolution, which was ratified by the National Council of Slovakia in 2004, gave an opportunity of spread of the above-mentioned law toward those who would deny the Armenian Genocide.

According to the comment of Mr. Harabin, if any citizen in Slovakia, be it a foreigner, a local resident or any citizen of Slovakia, comes forth in any country with a statement denying the Armenian Genocide, he will be punished with up to 5 years' imprisonment

Stefan Harabin collaboratively with Ashot Grigoryan has organized a joint conference for February, 2012 on the above-mentioned theme. Chairman of the Cassation Court of the RA Arman Mkrtumyan and Chairman of the Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunyan have already received invitation to participate in the conference.

### **3. Prosecutor's General Office gives process to the PM's mediation [Armenpress, 11/24/11]**

Prosecutor's General Office has received the application of RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan to examine the claims of citizen Harutyun Arakelyan and provoke a criminal case. According to the press office of the Prosecutor's General Office, the application of the Prime Minister as well as the open letter received from citizen Arakelyan (the author has unveiled the content at the press conference November 21) have been sent to the Chief Investigative Department of the Police for preparing materials and giving process solution. The Fax sent to the Ministry of Justice November 18 on behalf of Harutyun Arakelyan has also been attached to the application and the open letter.

### **4. Czechia underlines the necessity of peaceful settlement of NK conflict [Armenpress, 11/25/11]**

Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian, who is in Prague for an official visit, met November 22 Vice Prime Minister of Czechia, Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg. MFA press office reported that welcoming the Armenian minister Karel Schwarzenberg congratulated him on the opening of Armenian embassy in Prague, pointing out that the decision of Armenian authorities to establish diplomatic representation in Prague will give new impetus to the Armenian-Czech cooperation. Expressing gratitude to the Czech counterpart for warm reception Minister Nalbandian said that during his latest visit about three years ago it was stressed that additional efforts must be exerted for the development of bilateral relations. "We may state that our relations have been put on new qualitative level," the minister stressed.

The Armenian minister said the opening of Armenian embassy in Prague testifies the intention of the Armenian side to deepen and expand friendly partnership with Czechia.

Minister Nalbandian said during these years a real progress has been registered in respect of intensification of the political dialogue, organization of high-level visits, reinforcement of legal-contractual field. "During the past three years RA President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister visited Prague. In 2008 chairman of Czech's Senate, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Defense Minister were hosted in Armenia. The inter-parliamentary ties have also been intensified," the minister stressed.

The two ministers noted that during the past three years eight bilateral agreements have been signed.

The interlocutors also touched upon international and regional issues. They referred to the usage of potential of trade-economic cooperation, undertaking of steps for encouraging investments.

Foreign Minister of Czechia rated high the reforms ongoing in Armenia. The ministers discussed the Armenia-EU cooperation, programs carried out within the framework of Eastern Partnership. Edward Nalbandian presented to his Czech counterpart the developments over the process of settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The parties stressed the necessity of peaceful resolution of the issue.

### **5. Armenian embassy opens in Prague [Armenpress, 11/25/11]**

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and Czech Foreign Minister Karel Swarzenberg attended the solemn opening ceremony of the Armenian Embassy in Prague. MFA press office reported that ambassadors accredited in Prague, members of the Czech Parliament, representatives of the Armenian community were present at the event.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

---

Minister Nalbandian visited the Czech Senate where he met First Vice-Speaker Premysl Sobotka and representatives of different political forces. At the request of the Senators, Edward Nalbandian presented the main directions and priorities of Armenia's foreign policy.

Edward Nalbandian delivered an extended speech on Armenia's foreign policy at the Czech Association for International Affairs. Within the framework of the visit he gave an interview to the "Lidove Noviny" newspaper.

## **6. Armenia opens two new embassies in European countries [Armenpress, 11/26/11]**

Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian was in Denmark November 23 for an official visit. MFA press office reported that first of all the minister participated in the solemn opening of Armenian embassy to that country. Minister for European Affairs of Denmark Nikolai Wammen Diplomats accredited there, representatives of the Armenian community participated in the event.

Speaking at the opening ceremony Armenian minister noted that with the opening of the embassy Armenia and Denmark will put their relations on a new qualitative level.

Minister Nalbandian expressed conviction that the embassy will have a serious contribution to deepening relations with Denmark.

Minister for European Affairs of Denmark Nikolai Wammen hailed the decision of the Armenian authorities to open embassy in his country. He voiced hope that with joint efforts the relations between the two countries will develop.

## **7. Israeli Knesset to discuss recognition of Armenian Genocide in early December [Armenpress, 11/28/11]**

Israeli Knesset's Education, Culture and Sport Affairs Committee will launch discussion of the bill on recognition of the Armenian Genocide in early December. Izrus reports that the chairman of the Committee is Alex Miller who came forth against the recognition of the Armenian genocide. "I am against populist decisions, and I will not allow scandalous speeches during hearings," he said.

Speaker of Knesset Reuven Rivlin, who speaks in favor of recognition of the Armenian Genocide, expressed wish to participate in the sitting of the Committee. Representative of the Israeli parliament's coalition Elkin will also be present at the discussion. Starting from 2008 he is actively engaged in the process of recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

## **BUSINESS**

## **8. Eastern Partnership will not suffer from crisis of Europe – Karen Bekaryan about latest developments [Armenpress, 11/24/11]**

Conditioned by the economic crisis, the situation is quite complicated in Europe. Political scientist Karen Bekaryan said in an interview with Armenpress that the situation can bring with it more serious developments inside Europe and especially in the scope of the European zone. "We highlight the circumstance that all those developments do not reflect on the scope of the Eastern Partnership, on the attention paid to it and on the financial support.

He noticed that, sure, there are deep processes, and the crisis is not only of economic nature, there are also other factors. "That situation can affect the stability of the European region the way we see today. In the countries where the crisis has more complicated manifestations, we see public discontent with the leadership and governments," Mr. Bekaryan said.

He noted that in the countries (for example, Germany), which have a large load in regard to extending support, we see public fermentations, when it is not always that society is ready to be in the role of supporter.

## **9. Artsakh's IT sphere to develop in parallel with Armenian [Armenpress, 11/25/11]**

The events during the past two years implemented in the information technology and telecommunication sphere will give an opportunity to the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh not to stay back from the developments taking place in the same sphere in Yerevan. General Manager of Viva-Cell-MTS company Ralf Yirikian said attempts are being made to first make Internet more available in the Nagorno Karabakh through reducing the tariff.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

---

Executive director of Synopsys-Armenia company Hovik Musayelyan pointed out that for the development of mentioned spheres it is necessary to apply corresponding educational systems.

"Many schools already have computer saloons and classes are being conducted. At the same time it is necessary to increase the level of engagement in the higher educational system," he said adding an attempt is being made to fill this gap through the potential of Armenia's intellectual youth.

## **10. Turkish businessmen participate in "Shirak EXPO 2011" exhibition [Armenpress, 11/26/11]**

Annual "Shirak EXPO 2011" exhibition kicked off November 24 in Hoktember Cinema in Gyumri organized by the Shirak Competitiveness Center. This year, the event is organized as part of the "Support to Armenia-Turkey Rapprochement" project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Consortium of the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, Yerevan Press Club, International Center for Human Development and the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen (Employers) of Armenia.

Director of Shirak Competitiveness Center Gayane Avagyan said unlike the previous years this time Turkish businessmen that participated in the Armenian-Turkish business forum partook in the event and presented their companies, got acquainted with the potential in Armenia.

Representatives of Lori and Tavush regions also attended the event. Different pavilions present products of food, textile, IT, shoes, building materials companies.

## **11. By the end of the year Armenia is expected to receive 800 thousand tourists [Armenpress, 11/28/11]**

For increasing the tourism potential it is necessary to use all the seasons of the year. Winter in Armenia will be active for tourists, Minister of Economy Tigran Davtyan said referring to the current situation, development and prospects of the sphere. "The government is providing serious financial means for the development of the IT and tourism spheres. Our goal is to use these means more effectively," the minister noted.

Davtyan said even as a result of economic crisis the growth tempo in this sphere has been maintained. He noted that by the end of the year more than 800 thousand tourists are expected to visit Armenia and in two-three years their number will reach one million.

"Tourism attraction of any country is tourism infrastructures – airports, roads, hotels, etc. During the recent years quite serious moves have been registered in the republic," he said.

## **DIASPORA**

### **12. Bako Sahakyan received American Armenian entrepreneurs [Noyan Tapan, 11/23/11]**

On 21 November Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan received in Los Angeles American Armenian entrepreneur, chairman of the "EcoPanelGroup" company Khachik Khachikyan and architect Sevak Petrosyan.

Issues related to introducing modern technologies to the sphere of construction in the NKR were discussed during the meeting. President Sahakyan considered important application of modern construction methods in Artsakh especially in house building and cooperation with the Diaspora in this field.

Primate 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.

### **13. Bako Sahakyan received American Armenian philanthropists [Noyan Tapan, 11/23/11]**

On 21 November Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan received in Los Angeles American Armenian philanthropists Harout Hakobyan and Levon Kirajan.

Issues related to the realization of different projects in the NKR were discussed during the meeting.

The President considered important application of the Diaspora's potential and its experience in the development of Artsakh, which enables to achieve palpable results in a relatively shorter period of time.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

---

Executive director of the “Hayastan” All-Armenian fund Ara Vardanyan, 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.

## **14. In honor of the Artsakh Republic President was organized at the General Consulate of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles [Noyan Tapan, 11/23/11]**

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, the Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President informs.

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 Head of the State 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.

## **15. Bako Sahakyan received the delegation of the Armenian Assembly of America's Southern California Regional Council [Noyan Tapan, 11/23/11]**

On 23 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan received in Los Angeles the delegation of the Armenian Assembly of America's Southern California Regional Council.

Issues related to socio-economic development of Artsakh, objective presentation of the Artsakh cause in international arena and strengthening the Artsakh-Diaspora ties were discussed during the meeting.

The Head of the State underlined that the organization had played a palpable role in the life of Artsakh and cooperation with this structure was considered important by official Stepanakert. President Sahakyan noted that it was necessary give a new impetus to bilateral relations and make them more active.

Primate 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.

## **16. Bako Sahakyan highlights role of traditional Armenian parties in the Diaspora's life [Noyan Tapan, 11/24/11]**

On 22 November Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan met in Los Angeles members of the governing body of the Western USA Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Party (Dashnaktsoutyun), Western USA Hnchakyan Social-Democratic Party and Western USA Regional committee of the Ramkavar Azatakan Party.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that issues related to socioeconomic situation in the Artsakh Republic, regional developments as well as cooperation between Artsakh and Diaspora were discussed during the meetings.

The NKR President considered important the role played by the traditional Armenian parties in the Diaspora's life, their input in cementing ties with the Motherland and continuous support shown to Artsakh.

Primate 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 meetings.



## ARTS

### **17. Arsho's canvases aimed at strengthening tolerance [Armenpress, 11/26/11]**

Armenian public further strengthened understanding of tolerance, peace and other UN values at the art exhibition dedicated to the International Day for Tolerance which was opened today in the UN House.

The bright paintings of the well-known Armenian artist Arshavir Kirakosyan (Arsho) promote tolerance, acceptance of diversity, peace and beauty of the Armenian nature. His art attracted attention of youth, artists, the international community, civil society activists, the media and the general public.

The exhibition is aimed at complimenting the country's efforts aimed towards strengthening tolerance, peaceful coexistence and raising public awareness on the values and principles that are at the heart of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: among those core values is tolerance.

Maria Dotsenko, UN Department of Public Information Representative said: "Through Armenian art, we wish to attract public attention to the promotion of the UN values and principles. Tolerance recognizes the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. People are naturally diverse; only tolerance can ensure the survival of mixed communities in every region of the globe. It is respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. Tolerance is not only a moral duty, but also is a political and legal requirement for individuals, groups and States"

The painter, Arshavir Kirakosyan added: "Thanks to UN, I was able to once again exhibit my works that are the mirrors of beauty and harmony of the nature and human beings. All the paintings show that tolerance is one of the bases of the world's harmony. My works promote openness, mutual understanding and solidarity that are the foundations of a tolerant society."

In 1996, the UN General Assembly invited UN Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November, with activities directed to promote respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.

This exhibition is one of many, which were organized in the UN House in Armenia with the goal to motivate and encourage creative people to support and promote the UN values among general public with the help of art. This exhibition is organized by the UN Department of Public Information Office in Armenia.

The exhibition will be open to the public until 1 December, 2011 on Mondays to Fridays from 15:00 till 17:00.

## RELIGION

### **18. Religious leaders urge withdrawal of snipers from the line of contact [Armenpress, 11/28/11]**

Within the framework of the sitting of the CIS Inter-Religious Council in Yerevan trilateral meeting of the Armenian Catholicos Karekin II, Patriarch of All Russia Kiril I, Head of the Caucasian Muslims Seikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh took place November 28. During the meeting the religious leaders of the three countries signed a joint declaration.

"The meeting was quite short, but it does not mean that it was not successful. The important point in the declaration is the solution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. We must support the activity of the Minsk Group, it is necessary to keep the regime of non-usage of force and have an optimistic approach toward the settlement of the NK conflict," the Russian Patriarch said. He insisted that withdrawal of snipers from the line of contact must be added to the consent on returning captives and killed people, not to have human losses any more. "The refusal of usage of force must include it too. If no deaths are registered, no force is applied, no blood is shed, the psychological atmosphere will change and new prospects for the peaceful settlement of Nagorno Karabakh will open," the Russian Patriarch said.

### **19. Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill awarded with St. Mesrop Mashtots Medal [Armenpress, 11/28/11]**

President Serzh Sargsyan hosted today Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill and Catholicos of All-Armenians Karekin II.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

---

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the President welcomed the visit of the delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church to Armenia and expressed hope that it will serve for strengthening of friendly relations between the Armenian Apostolic and Russian Orthodox Churches.

The head of the republic highly appraised the efforts of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill directed toward strengthening of moral and spiritual merits in society. According to Serzh Sargsyan, the life and activity of Patriarch Kirill are a fine example of serving the homeland and Russian Orthodox Church.

On today's decree of President Serzh Sargsyan, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill was awarded with St. Mesrop Mashtots Medal for outstanding contribution to expansion of friendly relations between Armenian and Russian peoples and strengthening of ties between the Armenian Apostolic and Russian Orthodox Churches.

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill expressed gratitude to President Serzh Sargsyan and Catholicos-of-All Armenians for assisting in conduction of the sitting of the board of trustees of CIS Inter-religious Council and wished God's blessing to the diligent Armenian people and prosperity to Armenia, and wished successes to the head of the republic in his important and responsible work.

## SOCIAL

### **20. Hayastan All-Armenian Fund telethon raises 12,286,478 USD [Armenpress, 11/26/11]**

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's 14th telethon aired on November 24 raised about 12,286,478 USD. The 2011 Telethon was aired from Los Angeles, California. In Armenia, it was carried live on H1 (Public TV), Armenia, Shant and Yerkir Media.

The fund-raising events held in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) and the Diaspora in the past year were announced. The money from this year's telethon will be directed to the renovation of the water supply networks of Armenia and Artsakh.

### **21. The Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs had a meeting with the students of the American University of Armenia [Noyan Tapan, 11/28/11]**

Today the Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with the MA students of the School of Political Science and International Affairs at the American University of Armenia.

During the meeting Edward Nalbandian presented the main directions and priorities of Armenia's foreign policy, as well as the results of his visits paid to a number of European capitals last week.

Answering the questions of the students, Minister Nalbandian talked about the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue in detail.

## SPORTS

### **22. Armenia ranked 46th in FIFA rating list [Armenpress, 11/25/11]**

Armenian national football team has been ranked 46th in the list of FIFA. An official from the Armenian Football Federation told Armenpress that the list is topped by the Spanish team, followed by the teams of Holland, Germany, Uruguay, England, Brazil, Portugal, Croatia, Italy and Argentina. The Russian team is ranked the 12th.

---

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.*