



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, October 26, 2009

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### POLITICS

#### 1. KAREN BEKARIAN CONVINCED THAT ARMENIA-TURKEY PROTOCOLS CONTAIN NO PRECONDITIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

In his speech made at Turkish parliament the day before, Foreign Minister of Turkey Ahmet Davutoglu did not say anything new in the positive or negative sense: his speech was within the general context of statements and speeches given by various Turkish officials before that. Chairman of European Integration NGO Karen Bekarian expressed this opinion at the October 22 press conference.

In his words, it is evident from the fact that on October 20 Turkey's National Security Council in an enlarged staff discussed the issue of Armenian-Turkish relations for over 7 hours that it was a wide discussion of an interested side. K. Bekarian indicated 4 possible scenarios of a political decision on the issue: 1. rapid ratification process, 2. ratification without reservations, but after a delay, 3. ratification with reservations, and 4. refusal to ratify.

K. Bekarian said that at this stage the Armenian diplomats should do painstaking daily work because the problem is a delicate one for all the sides: Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh, Azerbaijan, Turkey, also for power centers such as the European Union, the U.S., and Russia. In his words, there will also be responses to the problem's delicacy from Iran that may soon come out of international isolation and assume its role that has become somewhat passive due to the nuclear program of that country.

K. Bekarian expressed confidence that Armenia-Turkey protocols contain no preconditions, while the statements of Turkish officials do not create any legal obligation for Armenia. If the ratification of the protocols in Turkish parliament is accompanied by reservations, for example, the Karabakh problem settlement, then Armenia, in the opinion of K. Bekarian, will withdraw from the process. "Today the Republic of Armenia does not allow anyone to think that it can be forced (especially by Turkey) to make concessions over the Karabakh problem," he noted.

#### 2. IRAN WELCOMES SIGNING OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH PROTOCOLS [ARMENPRESS, 10/26/09]

Solution of any dispute, settlement of any conflict in the region will bring only peace and all the countries will benefit from it, Iranian ambassador to Armenia Seyed Ali Saghayan told Armenpress, welcoming the signing of protocols between Armenia and Turkey.

"Iran welcomes the sensible and courageous step of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to go to normalization of relations: in spite of different pressures he dared to display such an initiative," the ambassador said.

According to him, important states of the region – Iran, Russia and Turkey must promote that the achieved protocols – without pre-conditions – be implemented.

The ambassador is sure that the issues existing in the region may be solved with the efforts of the states of the region and not outside of it, with advices of foreign states. "We hope soon to see greater stability which will serve in favor of the all peoples," the ambassador noted.

#### 3. LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA: "WE RESPECT THE WILL AND DECISION OF THE ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN ARMENIA AND TURKEY" [ARMENPRESS, 10/26/09]

"We respect the will and decision of the Armenian government to normalize relations between Armenia and Turkey," Lebanese ambassador to Armenia Zhebrail Zheara told Armenpress. He expressed hope that the normalization process will move forward and bring to concrete results – opening of the borders and establishment of peace.

"The most important is peace not between the governments but between the peoples. It is difficult to realize this fact but not impossible. For a long time Armenians and Turks lived side by side and time has come to find the formula of living again side by side," the ambassador said.

Zh. Zheara said the Arabic world and particularly Lebanon have excellent relations with Armenia which are developing on political, economic and cultural platforms.



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## BUSINESS

### 4. ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES 250 MILLION DRAMS FOR ANTIHAIL STATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

By a decision taken at the October 22 sitting of the RA government, 250 million drams (675.7 thousand USD) of a Japanese grant will be allocated for the purchase of antihail stations. According to RA Minister of Agriculture Gerasim Alaverdian, the antihail stations will be installed in Armavir and Ararat Marzes to protect about 3 thousand ha of agricultural lands. Annual losses of the country's agricultural sector as a result of natural disasters amount to 13-20 million USD, including losses of 7-10 million USD because of hail.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said considerable sums would be provided for antuhail systems in 2010 to qualitatively improve the hail-suppression service in Armenia.

### 5. SOFTLINE INTERNATIONAL EXPANDS ITS ACTIVITIES IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

By the spring of 2010, Softline International company, Russia, plans to open an electronic shop ([www.allsoft.am](http://www.allsoft.am)) to order to sell and service software produced by Softline itself and its 50 partners through Armenian electronic payment systems. In addition, as NT correspondent was informed by Armen Karapetian, Director General of Softline International Armenia - the company's Armenian subsidiary, Softline has acquired and will soon launch [www.kaspersky.am](http://www.kaspersky.am). (Kaspersky Lab is a computer security company of anti-virus products).

In his words, they also envisage opening a shop in Yerevan for the sale of software boxes and computers. These steps will encourage the development of the licensed software products market in Armenia. According to A. Karapetian, Softline International Armenia started operating in the autumn of 2008. Based on the right of a distributor, it produces boxes of the software of Kaspersky Lab and Doctor Web companies.

A. Karapetian said Softline is going to open the Softline Academy at the Yerevan-based European Regional Academy of the Caucasus where it will run courses for students and employees of private companies and the state sector.

### 6. PAN ARMENIAN EXPO 2009 OPENS IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

Products of some 150 domestic and foreign companies are presented at Pan Armenian Expo 2009 that opened in Yerevan on October 23. The main sections of this international economic exhibition include: industry, craftsmanship, services, construction, and food industry.

The opening ceremony was conducted by RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan. Among the exhibition's organizers are RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RA Ministry of Diaspora, and RA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI). For the first time, Pan Armenian Expo was broadcast on-line in various countries.

Chairman of RA CCI Martin Sargsyan said that also on display are products of over a dozen companies which started operating in conditions of the global crisis, as well as products manufactured by companies having problems related to the export of their goods and finding new partners. For this purpose, according to him, at the request of RA CCI, delegations of 15 countries have arrived in Armenia to familiarize themselves with products on display and to participate in the business forum to be held within the framework of the exhibition.

Pan Armenian Expo 2009 will last until October 25.

### 7. DAVID HARUTYUNIAN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF RA STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF ECONOMIC COMPETITION [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

By an October 23 decree of RA President Serzh Sargsyan, David Harutyunian has been appointed Chairman of the RA State Commission for the Protection of Economic Competition for a 5-year period.

According to the RA presidential press service, prior to that, by a decree of RA president, Ashot Shahnazarian was relieved of his post as Chairman of the Commission.



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## 8. ANTIMONOPOLY INSTITUTIONS IN ARMENIA ARE MOSTLY FORMAL BY NATURE, RA OMBUDSMAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

The whole economy of Armenia has been monopolized, and political will and willingness are needed to fight that, RA Ombudsman Armen Harutyunian said at the October 23 press conference, noting that in a small country with scarce resources like Armenia, the only potential is the creation of favorable conditions for the free manifestation of creative capacities of its citizens.

In the opinion of the ombudsman, in Armenia, the antimonopoly institutions do not function efficiently and are mostly formal by nature, so the rights of consumers are not guaranteed and protected. "It is necessary to make system changes: the reformed system will help bring up respectable, free-thinking citizens, otherwise we won't be able to overcome the challenges we face. The monopolized economy will lead us into a dead end," A. Harutyunian said.

## 9. WCO SECRETARY GENERAL UNDERLINES NECESSITY OF CHANGING MENTALITY OF ARMENIAN CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

At the October 23 meeting of RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan and Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Kunio Mikuriya, the sides discussed the programs being implemented in Armenia and the possible technical assistance, the seminars on risk assessment to be held for customs officials, and the issue of Armenia's most active involvement in WCO. They touched upon the opportunities of establishing a training center in Armenia, its capacities and educational programs. The interlocutors attached great importance to the simplification of customs procedures and the introduction of the "one window" principle for businessmen, which will enable to improve the business climate and reduce risks.

WCO Secretary General welcomed the political support of the Armenian authorities for the improvement of tax and customs administration, the press service of RA government reported. Noting that there is close cooperation between Armenia and WCO, K. Mikuriya underlined the importance of changing the mentality of Armenian customs employees. In his words, this change will become possible through cooperation of the private sector and customs bodies.

## DIASPORA

## 10. 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION OF ARMENIANS OF RUSSIA TO BE CELEBRATED IN 2010 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

Events will be held in Russia, Armenia and Artsakh on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Union of Armenians of Russia, announced president of the Union of Armenians of Russia Ara Abrahamyan during an October 16 round-table discussion at the National Academy of Sciences with the theme "Union of Armenians of Russia: on the threshold of the 10th anniversary".

The organization, which is aimed at preserving Armenian identity and the relationship with the Homeland, has come a long way in the past ten years and has registered much success, particularly the construction of Sunday schools, churches, as well as 130 apartments for refugee families in Armenia. The organization also provides help to the elderly.

In regard to the process of normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations, Abrahamyan announced that he has no doubts about the patriotism and experience of the Armenian president and the foreign minister. He also stated that the Union of Armenians of Russia has expressed its concerns. Abrahamyan believes that it is necessary to prepare experts, historians and businessmen before the ratification of the Turkey-Armenia Protocols in order to ensure Armenia's national security and defend the nation's interests. According to him, Armenia must work to make sure the relations with the neighboring country benefit Armenia. Abrahamyan also stated that Turkey possibly wants to thrust a wedge in the relations between Armenia and the Diaspora and that should not be permitted.

The presentation of the two-volume compilation of documents by prominent international affairs expert Yuri Barseghov entitled "Nagorno-Karabakh in international law and global politics" was held during the event. The collection was published through funding provided by the Union of Armenians of Russia and Abrahamyan mentioned that the second volume is somewhat incomplete due to the death of the author. He proposed to create a working group, work on the second volume and translate it to English. Scientists also proposed to create and publish similar collections about Javakhk and Nakhijevan as well.



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## ARTS

### 11. PHOTO EXHIBITION OF FORMER GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA HANS-WULF BARTELS OPENS IN GYUMRI [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

An exhibition entitled "Armenian Impressions" featuring photos by the former German Ambassador to Armenia Hans-Wulf Bartels opens at the Aslamasian Sisters Picture Gallery in Gyumri on October 24. H.-W. Bartels took these photos during his numerous trips in Armenia.

The exhibition has been organized within the framework of the German Weeks 2009 Program by the German embassy in Armenia with the support of RA Ministry of Culture, the embassy reported. Hans-Wulf Bartels will attend the opening ceremony of the exhibition which will last until November 8.

### 12. ARMENIAN FILM FESTIVAL KICKED OFF IN HAGUE [ARMENPRESS, 10/26/09]

The official opening of the Armenian film festival was held October 22 in Hague. It is dedicated to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hague's "Abovyan" Cultural Union. The festival has been organized collaboratively by "Abovyan" cultural union and Hague Cinema Center, with the support of the directorate of "Golden Apricot" festival and Armenian Embassy in Hague.

Media and Information department of Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that the films of the well-known Armenian and Diaspora film directors will be shown, like Sergey Parajanov's "The Color of the Pomegranate", Hamo Bek-Nazaryan's "Namus", Don Askaryan's "Komitas", Ruben Mamulyan's "The Golden Century of Broadway and Hollywood", Albert Mkrtychyan's "Happy Bus", Atom Egoyan's "Calendar".

Dutch political and public figures, representatives of the Armenian community were present at the festival's opening ceremony. The festival will last till November 4.

### 13. "SUNCHILD" SECOND INTERNATIONAL NATURE PROTECTION FESTIVAL WILL KICK OFF BY THE YEREVAN PREMIER OF "HOME" FILM [ARMENPRESS, 10/26/09]

"SunChild" second international nature protection festival will kick off by the Yerevan premier of the "Home" film produced by Luke Beson.

"Watching the film people will remember that life is a miracle created nearly 4 billion years ago. It is only 200 000 years that we people live on the earth and in that period we have managed to violate the ecological balance, without which it will be impossible to survive. Everything in nature is interrelated, it is an integral chain comprised of numerous rings. And if one of the rings gets out of its place, the whole chain is disturbed. And it may become a cause of non-returnable loses", Responsible of Media and Information department of the festival Ani Yeghiazaryan told Armenpress.

A big masquerade-parade will follow it. Over 500 juniors with colorful zodiac cloths will encourage the passers-by to join the natural protection events of the upcoming days. The masquerade-parade will start from Matenadaran and will finish in front of "Moscow" cinema.

Music groups with calls and slogans on nature protection will accompany the participants of the masquerade, during the whole parade children will hand flower seeds to passer-byes by making them participants of the event as well.

The groups with the best masks and uniforms will deserve awards.

### 14. ARMENIAN-AUSTRIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL TO BE CONDUCTED IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 10/26/09]

Armenian-Austrian music festival entitled "Vienna welcomes Yerevan" will be conducted from October 27 to November 1 in Yerevan Komitas Chamber Music Hall. Organizer of the festival's Armenian part, professor of State Conservatory after Komitas Armen Babakhanyan said at today's meeting with journalists that for Armenia this festival is an exclusive event which is a present from Austria; it is wholly sponsored by Austria and is conducted under the high patronage of Vienna Mayor Michael Hoypl.

Five concerts will be conducted within the frameworks of the festival, during which the works of Tigran Mansuryan, Mozart, Schubert, Berg will sound with the performances of singers Anna Maria Pammeri, Gayane Geghamyan, pianists Gotlip Vallishi, Anna Mandalyan, as well as clarinet player Suren Khorozyan.



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Festival Organizer of the Austrian part Zhan Sargsyan said that this is the first collaborative festival, and mainly Austrian music will be presented. He assured that interesting concerts are expected to be held.

Art Director of the festival Anna Maria Pammeri is of opinion that the Armenian-Austrian festival will promote the establishment of a music bridge between Armenia and Austria. Armenian spectator will have an opportunity of getting acquainted with Austrian music of different periods and genres. "This is also a good occasion for us to study Armenian composers' works", the singer said. The latter will perform one of Tigran Mansuryan's works in Armenian.

According to Gotlib Vallish, festival art director and pianist, the festival is unique and is of great importance to Armenia. "When we started the organizational works, especially the interest of the Austrian side was great. Suchlike cooperation is very efficient for both countries. Serious works are to be carried out toward making it continuous", the pianist noted.

Composer Tigran Mansuryan said that Yerevan lives an active music life. "It is a great honor to receive the famous musicians of Vienna. This town has a unique music character, it is really a music Eden; it is necessary to give a right assessment to this support", the composer noted.

## SOCIAL

15. REQUIEM SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF 27 OCTOBER 1999 ASSASSINATION VICTIMS TO BE HELD IN MOTHER SEE OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN ON OCTOBER 25 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

Following the Holy Liturgy, a Requiem Service in remembrance of the victims of the 27 October 2009 assassination will be held by the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin on October 25, the Information System of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin reported.

16. EVENTS DEDICATED TO 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF KHACHATUR ABOVIAN'S BIRTH TAKE PLACE AT UNIVERSITY OF TARTU [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

Events dedicated to the 200th anniversary of Khachatur Abovian's birth took place at the University of Tartu, Estonia on October 15. Armenian Ambassador to Estonia Ashot Galoyan participated in the jubilee events.

A conference on the life and creative activity of K. Abovian was held at the university, with reports made by member of the Estonian parliament Aadu Must, lecturers and students of the University of Tartu. According to the RA MFA Press and Information Department, representatives of the Armenian community in Estonia were present.

The participants of the jubilee events paid a tribute of respect to K. Abovian by laying flowers at the monument symbolizing the Armenian-Estonian friendship.

Other jubilee events included a concert by pupils of the Armenian Sunday School and a photo exhibition dedicated to K. Abovian.

17. ARMENIA SWITCHES TO WINTER TIME ON OCTOBER 25 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

On the night of October 25 (the last Sunday of October), Armenia will switch the clocks to the winter time. The clocks will be switched back one hour at 03:00 am local time on October 25, the Information and PR Unit of RA Ministry of Economy reported.

18. RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES WILL OPERATE IN THE REPUBLIC IN 2011 [ARMENPRESS, 10/26/09]

Drafting of standards of research universities and selection of universities is intended to realize in the educational sphere within the program on the Armenian government activities.

Media and information department of Armenian Science and Education Ministry told Armenpress that Science and Education Minister Armen Ashotyan said that in 2011 research universities will operate in Armenia, to which the state will extend active financial support as to "centers for excellences".

Conduction of reputation evaluation of Armenian higher educational establishments will be conducted for the first time by an independent body on the proposal of Science and Education Ministry,



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the financing mechanisms of higher educational sphere will be reconsidered. On that purpose letters have already been sent to relevant bodies to exact the forecasts of labor market of the given spheres.

The minister underscored that the free places in the sphere of higher education should be in accordance with the economic development, so they prefer to make a more purposeful use of the state means.

In the second half of 2011 Armenia together with Poland will co-chair the group following the Bologna process. In this context Armenia intends to organize international forum devoted to financing issues of the sphere of higher education.

## 19. THE LARGEST CENTER OF TRADE AND ENTERTAINMENT, "DALMA GARDEN MALL" TO OPEN IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 10/26/09]

The project on the largest trade and entertainment center in Armenia, "Dalma Garden Mall" was presented officially today in Yerevan. The multi-functional three-storied center, which is located at the micro-region of "Dalma Malls", is intended to open at the end of 2010. The general territory of the building is 45 000 square meters. The center will include hypermarkets of goods, store departments, restaurants, points of fast food, banks, tour agencies, shops of construction materials, furniture halls, cinema with three halls, as well as an entertainment zone for children.

Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan said that the idea of opening the center is an exclusive initiative, which enables to center the entertainment, trade and services in one place by essentially reducing the expenses and adding the availability. "This is going mainly to be a social area, where people can spend a fine day in a pleasant atmosphere", the minister said. He is sure that the construction volumes obviously say that it will be a trade and entertainment center of international level. N. Yeritsyan expressed hope that similar investments will grow, as suchlike initiatives play not only the role of a catalyst for bringing construction companies to Armenia, but simultaneously promote the import of foreign famous brands to Armenia.

Head of "Dalma Garden Mall" project Alexander Harutyunyan noted that this is the first extensive initiative for Armenia, and they regard it with great responsibility. "Our task is to work out a new trade standard in Armenia, where the greatest stress will be put on the creation of a family atmosphere", the head of the project said. According to him, the devices of the world best brands will be used for the illumination of the building, security systems will be applied as well. Project Consultants, Kira and Ruben Kanayans invited from Russia, presented the center's concept, the outline of the territorial division, the marketing package and the advertisement policy.

The center's construction works have started in 2008.

## SPORTS

### 20. ARMENIAN CHESS MEN'S AND WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM WIN IN FIRST ROUND OF EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/24/09]

The European Chess Team Championship started on October 22 in the city of Novi Sad, Serbia. Armenian men's national team in the first round beat the team of Denmark with the score of 3 to 1 and women's national team beat the team of Italy with the score of 2.5 to 1.5.

17 national teams in men's tournament and 13 teams in women's tournament have two points each.

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