



TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. MONUMENT TO THE VICTIMS OF THE OCTOBER 27 ASSASSINATION ERECTED IN THE COURT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Today is the tenth anniversary of the October 27, 1999 assassination in the National Assembly. Today in the court of the National Assembly a monument to the victims of the October 27 assassination has been erected. The author of the monument is Yervand Kochar. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, His Holiness Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, political figures, members of parliament, government, relatives of the victims participated in the opening ceremony.

“Ten years passed from the tragic events in the National Assembly. The assassination which shocked the Armenian people, took the lives of state and political figures who had great contribution to the independence, consolidation of statehood, formation of the army. Today we are commemorating them, people whose contribution is incontestable in the history of newly independent Armenia. The loss is irreparable and the pain incurable. The past years did not smooth the pain of all of us and the regret,” Armenian NA speaker Hovik Abrahamyan said in his speech.

Widow of Karen Demirtchyan, Rima Demirtchyan, noted that ten years passed from the tragedy but no one forgot, nothing has been forgotten and today's ceremony witnesses it. According to her, this must have been done earlier, but “it is good that current NA and its leadership sought the erection of the monument”.

“The October 27 assassination not only broke our hearts and left inerasable, incurable wound, it shattered the basis of our statehood, separated our public and till now we bear the consequences,” she said, adding that many questions remained unanswered and it is wrong to leave them for next generations.

2. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY HEADED BY THE ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN VISITED TODAY “YERABLUR” PANTHEON TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF STATE AND POLITICAL FIGURES ASSASSINATED OCTOBER 27, 1999 IN THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY [ARMENPRESS, 10/27/09]

The leadership of the country headed by the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan visited today “Yerablur” pantheon to pay tribute to the memory of state and political figures assassinated October 27, 1999 in the Armenian National Assembly.

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Secretary of the National Security Council Arthur Baghdasaryan, Chairman of the Armenian Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunyan and other officials put flowers and wreaths on the tombs of Commander Vazgen Sargsyan, Andranik Ozanyan.

Victims of the 1999 October 27 assassination became Armenian NA Speaker Karen Demirtchyan, Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan, Vice-Speakers of the NA Yuri Bakhshyanm Ruben Miroyan, members of parliament Michael Kotanyan, Armenak Armenakyan, Henrik Abrahamyan, Minister of Operative Issues Leonard Petrosyan.

Today a memorial dedicated to them will open in the court of the NA.

3. JAVIER SOLANA SAYS EU IS READY TO UNDERTAKE NECESSARY STEPS FOR THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION PROCESS [ARMENPRESS, 10/27/09]

High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union Javier Solana stated yesterday at the meeting with the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammedyarov that EU is ready to undertake necessary steps for the positive development of Karabakh conflict regulation process.

During the meeting the sides also discussed issues on cooperation between EU and Azerbaijan, regional issues and Karabakh conflict regulation process.

Solana pointed out that for the settlement of the conflict it is necessary to preserve the dynamics in the negotiations and said that EU is ready to support in the process.



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4. ARMENIAN AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON MEETS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF LEBANON [ARMENPRESS, 10/27/09]

Armenian ambassador to Lebanon Ashot Kocharyan met October 26 with the Prime Minister of Lebanon Fuad Sinyora. The latter congratulated the ambassador on the appointment and wished success in the implementation of the diplomatic mission.

Armenian Foreign Ministry's Media and Information Department told Armenpress that the parties highlighted the necessity of bringing the Armenian-Lebanese friendly relations on a new level. The interlocutors pointed out the necessity of development of bilateral trade-economic relations and their expansion, also mutual visits of the delegations, and restarting of the sessions of the inter-governmental commissions.

The interlocutors pointed out that the legal-agreement field and the existing potential give opportunity for further cooperation.

5. ARMENIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN UN AMBASSADOR CHARLES AZNAVOUR MEETS WITH CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL [ARMENPRESS, 10/27/09]

Armenian permanent representative in UN (Geneva office), Ambassador Charles Aznavour visited October 22 Geneva City Council and with its chairman Daniel Hiller.

Armenian Foreign Ministry's Media and Information Department told Armenpress that during the meeting the Armenian permanent representative referred to the issues of importance for Armenia in UN, highly assessing the warm attitude of Geneva City Council toward the Swiss-Armenian community.

During the conversation the sides referred to the signing of Armenian-Turkish protocols in Zurich and the further activity of the sides.

6. A. ISKANDARYAN SAYS REGULATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS TO BRING UP SERIOUS CHANGES IN THE REGION [ARMENPRESS, 10/27/09]

The regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations will bring up serious changes in the region. Director of the Caucasus Institute Alexander Iskandaryan said at today's meeting with journalists that the role of Georgia will sharply change in case of opening the Armenian-Turkish border. According to economic analysts, the transfer volumes over the territory of that country will reduce in 40 %. According to A. Iskandaryan, difficulties will arise in the construction of Kars-Akhalkalak road. As of Iran, serious possibilities will be created in case of constructing Meghri-Bavra-Batumi road. Azerbaijan realizes quite distinctly that its role will decrease in case of the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations.

"The normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations will establish stability in the region. In case of the open border between the two countries, the state will become more stable than before", A. Iskandaryan noted. According to him, there may be different timeframes on the ratification of the protocols by the Turkish parliament. They can be ratified very early or be prolonged till 2011, when elections are held in Turkey. A. Iskandaryan said that the process on the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations moves forward, but it is difficult to say what outcome it will bring up. According to him, judging by the statements of the authorities, a decision has been adopted to wait till Turkey ratifies the protocols, and then to do that in the Armenian parliament.

Referring to anti-Armenian moods in Azerbaijan A. Iskandaryan noted that is not news. "The Turkish step directed toward normalizing its relations with Armenia has arisen discontent in Azerbaijan, but it does not mean that those two countries stop being partners", Director of the Caucasus Institute concluded.

7. ARMENIANS OF GREECE ORGANIZE SIGNATURE COLLECTION AGAINST ARMENIA-TURKEY PROTOCOLS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/09]

The Armenian community in Greece organized a collection of signatures against the Armenia-Turkey protocols, as a result of which 2,810 signatures were collected. According to Azat Or periodical, the representatives of the ARF, the Ramkavar Azatakan Party (RAP) and Greek Armenian structures handed the copies of signatures to the Armenian ambassador to Greece.



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8. NOR ZHAMANAKNER PARTY: THOSE REALLY GUILTY OF OCTOBER 27 TERRORIST ACT HAVE REMAINED UNPUNISHED [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/09]

Though 10 years have passed since the terrorist act committed on October 27 1999 at the RA National Assembly, "the pain has not been relieved, the wound has not been healed over as the whole Armenian nation feels that those really guilty have remained unpunished." Nor Zhamanakner (New Times) party Board's October 27 statement read.

According to NZ, the developments proceeding in the Republic of Armenia and around it currently make more clear and visible the whole logic of very serious home political, regional and geopolitical motives of the unprecedented slaughter aimed against the Armenian statehood 10 years ago.

9. LEADER OF THE ARMENIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY ARAM SARGSYAN SAYS THAT ARMENIAN PEOPLE WILL NOT ONLY EVER STEP BACK FROM THE DEMAND OF RECOGNITION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE BUT WILL ALSO FORWARD LAND DEMANDS [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan tries to listen to all and make own conclusion. The unprecedented format of discussion both in Armenia and Diaspora proves that approach, leader of the Armenian Democratic Party Aram Sargsyan said today at a press conference, noting that during the meetings the president summed up the voiced positions and presented them in the address to the people before signing of Armenian-Turkish protocols.

Nevertheless, the party demands to clearly register that Armenian people will not only ever step back from the demand of recognition of Armenian genocide but will also forward land demands.

A. Sargsyan said he is sure Armenian-Turkish relations must be viewed from the viewpoint of global geopolitical developments. "The world does not have poles now. The process which called globalization, one-pole, multi-pole world had its end. It may be witnessed by Iran-Turkey unprecedented closing, different geo-political developments," he said.

BUSINESS

10. TEN ARMENIAN COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN SECOND REGIONAL GEORGIA IT INNOVATION CONFERENCE [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/26/09]

10 information technology companies of Armenia will take part in the Second Regional Georgia IT Innovation Conference to be held in Tbilisi on October 29-30. The Armenian participant companies are E-dram, CHS Verisel Service, Strategic Partners, E-works, Spyur, Lime Tech, Margasoft Corp, IDS Design and Technologies, Grant Thornton Amyot, and Macademian AR.

The participation of Armenian companies in the event has been organized and coordinated by the Union of IT Enterprises (UITE) with the assistance of the USAID CAPS Project.

The purpose of the conference is to establish and encourage cooperation of the state and private sectors, associations, and companies engaged in the information and communication technology (ICT) sphere of Central and Eastern European, Caucasian, Middle East countries and the Baltic states, and to promote their competitiveness and use of innovations.

According to the press service of UITE, the organizers of the conference are the Georgia ICT Business Council and the State Commission of e-Governance Development of Georgia.

11. CONSTRUCTION OF DALMA GARDEN MALL SHOPPING AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER UNDER WAY IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/26/09]

The presentation of the Dalma Garden Mall shopping and entertainment center's project took place at the Erebuni Hotel on October 26. According to the Project Head Alexander Harutyunian, the center will be located in "Dalma Gardens" microdistrict and occupy an area of 46 thousand square meters. The center's construction began in 2008.

The cost of the construction financed by Dalma Invest LLC, a subsidiary of Tashir Company (Russia) is 40 million dollars.

A. Harutyunian said this multifunctional two-story shopping and entertainment center is the first one in Armenia. Its opening is scheduled for the third quarter of 2010. Dalma Garden Mall will include



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food hypermarkets, shops, restaurants, fast food outlets, banks, tour agencies, shops of building materials and furniture, a cinema, and an entertainment area for children.

RA Minister of Economy Nerses Yeritsian said that the combination of entertainment, trade and services is a widely used model in the world as it enables to increase accessibility of goods and services. "The construction volumes also show that it is going to be a shopping center in line with international standards," he declared. In his words, the center will be mainly a social facility where people will spend their time in pleasant surroundings. He noted that people of various strata of society can avail themselves to such centers.

12. ARMENIAN FINANCE MINISTER TIGRAN DAVTYAN SAYS ARMENIA'S ECONOMY AND WE HAVE PASSED THE CRITICAL POINT [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/09]

September economic indexes gave ground for optimism. It is possible to clearly say that there are stabilization tendencies in Armenia's economy and we have passed the critical point and even a slight growth is being registered by 0.1%, Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtyan said today at a press conference.

According to him, the tendencies of stabilization of the economy will become more obvious by the end of the year. The minister reiterated the 1.2% of economic growth forecast for 2010. He said the notable positive changes are already seen in construction, industry, export volumes. Only export increased by 26% in September.

The current tendencies of stabilization in Armenia's economy T. Davtyan explains with a number of factors, particularly stabilization of global economy, which clearly has its impact on our country as well as with results already notable in the government's anti-crisis program.

"Besides stabilization of the economy the situation has also become predictable," the minister said, noting that in such conditions it is possible to give assessments for the future, particularly in respect of collection of taxes and budget implementation.

DIASPORA

13. GOVERNMENT PROPOSES FACILITATING ENTRY OF DIASPORA ARMENIANS TO ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/09]

The RA National Assembly on October 26 discussed in the first reading the government's bill on making amendments and additions to the RA Law on Legal Status of Foreigners.

In the words of the main speaker, RA Minister of Diaspora Ms. Hranush Hakobian, the adoption of the bill will make it easier for Diaspora Armenians to receive an entry visa to the Republic of Armenia, while the Diaspora Armenian students will be able to solve the problem of residence permit without interrupting their studies. Particularly, it is envisaged that "the authorized state governance body of the RA government may establish a later date for submission of an application for extending the temporary residence permit for the purpose of education". Under the current law, a temporary residence status is granted for a period of up to one year, each time with the opportunity to extend it for one year, and the application for extension must be submitted at least 30 days before the expiry of the permit.

Under the current law, a temporary residence status is granted to any foreign citizen if he (she) proves the existence of circumstances substantiating his (her) residence in Armenia for a year or over. The envisaged circumstances of this kind include their studies, the availability of a work permit, marriage to an Armenian citizen or a foreign citizen legally residing in the Republic of Armenia, the fact of being a close relative (parent, brother, sister, spouse, child, grandfather, grandmother, grandchild) of an Armenian citizen or a foreign citizen legally residing in the Republic of Armenia, and the fact of carrying out entrepreneurial activity in Armenia. The bill proposes stipulating the circumstance of being of Armenian descent in addition to the above mentioned circumstances. This condition, among the current grounds, will also be envisaged for obtaining a permanent residence permit for 5 years.

Besides, it is envisaged that the foreigner, who was subjected to administrative responsibility for breaking the law and has not fulfilled the obligation imposed on him (her) by the administrative act, may receive an entry visa or a residence permit in one year after being subjected to administrative responsibility.

Responding to the questions of reporters, the minister said that in many cases dual citizenship does not resolve the above mentioned problems for the reason that some countries do not allow dual citizenship. According to her, firstly, in such cases the citizen cannot use this right, and secondly, Armenia



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tries to offer all the forms: temporary and permanent permits, special status for 10 years, and dual citizenship.

H. Hakobian said that naturally, dual citizenship is the highest status when the foreigner receives the rights and obligations of an Armenian citizen, paying only 1-1.5 thousand drams for the drawing up of the document. She announced that since the law's adoption, only 1,640 persons have been granted dual citizenship, but the process has become more active in the past 7 months.

The minister also reminded that in accordance with the law passed on April 1, 2009, the payments for an entry visa have been considerably reduced: payments of 3 thousand drams and 15 thousand drams are charged for 21 and 120 days, respectively.

ARTS

14. PHOTO EXHIBITION-CONTEST ENTITLED "ENERGY PHOTO" HELD TODAY IN ARMENIAN-RUSSIAN (SLAVONIC) UNIVERSITY [ARMENPRESS, 10/27/09]

The final round of the photo exhibition-contest entitled "Energy Photo" was held today in Armenian-Russian (Slavonic) University. The jury selected the three best works from the thirty one which passed the final round. Tatevik Khachikyan took the first place, Michael Martirosyan - the second place and Marina Mangasaryan – the third.

"Thanks to this exhibition I understood that today's youth has a promising future in the area of photography. I really liked some of the presented photos; it was obvious that they have a good fortune. But I cannot help also mentioning that there were photos that did not correspond to the selected thematic", Jury-Member, Photographer Arvin Kocharyan noted.

Fifty works were initially presented by the students of Yerevan State University, Yerevan State Economic University and Armenian-Russian (Slavonic) University.

15. FILM ABOUT VARDAN MAMIKONYAN AND AVARAYR BATTLE BEING SHOT IN HOLLYWOOD [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/09]

Director Roger Kupelian's film "East of Buzantium or Mamikonyan's Battle for Faith" is being shot in Hollywood. The film about the Avarayr Battle, one of the most important fights in the history of Armenians. The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) has already expressed willingness to assist in film shooting, and System of a Down soloist Serj Tankian has agreed to write a soundtrack, panarmenian.net reported.

Roger Kupelian has participated in shooting of such Hollywood films as Charlie Wilson's War, the Lord of the Rings, and Terminator Salvation.

16. "ALWAYS WITH ARNO" CONCERT DEDICATED TO THE GREAT COMPOSER ARNO BABAJANYAN TO TAKE PLACE IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/09]

"Always with Arno" concert dedicated to the great composer Arno Babajanyan will take place October 31 in Aram Khachaturyan big concert hall. The program is being implemented by the Culture Ministry with the support of the Armenian Public Radio.

An official from Al. Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet National Academic Theatre told Armenpress that son of the composer Ara Babajanyan will be present at the concert. Distinguished Armenian music figures Ruben Matevosyan, Rayisa Mkrtychyan, Martin Vardazaryan will perform at the event.

RELIGION

17. THE BUILDING OF RESIDENCE OF THE PRIMATE OF THE SOUTH RUSSIA DIOCESE OF ARMENIAN CHURCH OPENED [ARMENPRESS, 10/27/09]



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The opening ceremony of the newly constructed building of residence of the primate of the Armenian Diocese of South Russia has been held recently chaired by the primate of the diocese Bishop Movses Movsisyan.

Press service of Armenian Diocese of South Russia told Armenpress that the residence has been built with the charity of Andrey Amosov.

During the opening ceremony Bishop Movses Movsisyan expressed his gratitude and assessment to the philanthropist assuring him that the construction of the residence will give a new impetus to the extension of the works of the diocese and will promote that the spiritual mission is fulfilled with greater efficiency. In people's life his holiness attached importance to recognizing God and bearing spiritual-national merits.

SOCIAL

18. FATHER OF HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II ENTERS ETERNAL REST

It is with deep regret that we inform our faithful that on the evening of October 27, Grigor Nersissian, the father of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, entered his eternal rest following a short illness. He was 88 years old.

The funeral service will be offered at the Monastery of St. Gayane on Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m. The burial service will take place on Friday, October 30 at 1:00 p.m.

Blessed be the memory of the righteous.

19. ISSUES ON CLIMATE CHANGES DISCUSSED WITHIN "SUNCHILD" SECOND INTERNATIONAL NATURE PROTECTION FESTIVAL [ARMENPRESS, 10/27/09]

A round-table on the theme of climate changes was summoned today within "SunChild" second international nature protection festival. The discussion was organized by the Fund of Protecting Wild Nature and Cultural Values and OSCE office with the support of YSU scientific-educational center of ecological right.

The representatives of public and state institutions and the specialists expressed their viewpoints and answered to the questions concerning the guests. Films on the discussed themes were shown as well enabling to understand the urgency and importance of the themes more clearly.

The passive participation of the society in nature protection issues is a serious obstacle for the development of a civil public in Armenia. Though Armenia has accepted Orhus Convention, the public competence on nature protection issues, as well as on making decisions on them is not sufficient. Moreover, the majority of the Armenian citizens do not know that nature protection issues in South-Caucasian region are closely connected with both the present state of the region, and with its further development.

These discussions will enable the society to reveal the common benefits concerning the nature protection of South Caucasus and to direct them toward the stable and peaceful development of the whole region", Director of Fund of Protecting Wild Nature and Cultural Values Ruben Khachatryan told Armenpress.

Head of OSCE Yerevan office, Ambassador Sergey Kapinos is of opinion that other measures should follow the discussions. This is the first step, to which new ones will succeed. The participation of the society in nature protection events is of great importance, as first of all the consumer himself/herself should think about nature", S. Kapinos said.

20. CONSTRUCTION OF HILL OF HONOR MEMORIAL COMPLEX TO START IN 2010 IN GYUMRI [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/09]

The construction of Hill of Honor memorial complex of Russian soldiers perished in the Russian-Turkish wars will start in 2010 in Gyumri. Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed about it by Hrayr Karapetian, the Head of the Urban Development Department of Gyumri Mayor's Office.



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According to him, a land plot has been already allotted for the construction, projects have been made up. H. Karapetian said that the Otechestvo military-patriotic charity fund (www.vpbfond.ru) and benefactors from the Ulianovsk RF region hold the fund-raising for the memorial complex construction.

21. SERIES OF LECTURES ENTITLED "CULTURAL GENOCIDE" TO BE GIVEN IN NOR JUGHA [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/09]

A series of lectures, entitled "Cultural Genocide" and dedicated to the memory of Armen Hakhnazarian, an expert on monuments, will be given on October 27-28 within the framework of events in remembrance the Armenian Genocide victims. The lectures have been organized on the initiative of HUSK organization and sponsored by the Council of the Armenian Diocese of Tehran. On this occasion Samvel Karapetian, an expert on monuments, arrived in Tehran from Armenia on October 22 to deliver lectures. Alik daily reports that the lectures have already started at the Hall of "Ararat" Union in Nor Jugha.

22. CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS HANDS SURB GRIGOR LUSAVORICH ORDER TO VLADIMIR BAYADIAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/09]

On October 26 the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II handed a Surb Grigor Lusavorich Order - the highest order of the Armenian Apostolic Church - to Vladimir Bayadian (Krasnodar, Russia) in appreciation of his contribution to the life of the Armenian diocese in Southern Russia.

The Head of the Armenian diocese in Southern Russia Bishop Movses Movsisian was present at the order presentation ceremony, the information system of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin reported.

23. EDUCATIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ARMENIA AND EGYPT DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/09]

Armenian ambassador to Egypt Armen Melkonyan met October 27 in Egypt with the country's Higher Education and Science Minister Hani Helal.

Armenian Foreign Ministry's Media and Information Department told Armenpress that during the conversation the parties discussed issues on educational relations between the two countries and prospects of development of cooperation in the sphere, particularly referring to the process of preparatory works for signing of practical inter-governmental program of educational cooperation for 2009-2012.

The parties underscored the further development of direct ties between Armenian and Egyptian higher educational establishments and exchange of experience.

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