



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 30, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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POLITICS

1. Anahit Bakhshian: The act of terrorism was perfectly used by President Kocharian [Noyan Tapan, 10/28/09]

"On this day 10 years ago - on October 27, one of the tragic, dark pages in the history of Armenia was written. On that day the act of terrorism beheaded the statehood, causing indescribable pain and grief to our people". Anahit Bakhshian - member of "Heritage" faction, widow of the vice speaker of the parliament Yuri Bakhshian who became a victim of the act of terrorism committed in the hall of sittings at the parliament in 1999 - declared this during the hour of statements at the RA National Assembly.

In her words, the statehood was shot on that day, and the aim of the shooting was also to kill the hope in our people and their will to struggle, and to create an atmosphere of fear and servility in the country. "The act of terrorism was perfectly used by the president Kocharian for ruling the country by the authoritarian principles. Since the years of his presidency, the state institutions have been turned into an appendage and any competition or alternative has been ruled out," she said. A. Bakhshian also expressed an opinion that the October 27 act of terrorism has considerably weakened Armenia's positions in the negotiations on the Karabakh conflict settlement.



2. Nor Zhamanakner party: Armenia, according to foreign minister, officially recognized treaty of Kars [Noyan Tapan, 10/28/09]

According to the Nor Zhamanakner (New Times) party Board, RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian on various occasions, in particular, during the discussion of the protocols on Armenian-Turkish relations on October 1 2009 in RA NA, has declared that the Republic of Armenia factually officially recognized the Armenian-Turkish bilateral treaty signed on October 13 1921 in Kars.

In that connection the NZ Board on October 26 sent an official letter to the Foreign Minister for the latter to provide copies of all documents which create a legal and diplomatic basis for making such a statement.

The NZ Press Service also informed NT that the same day party Chairman Aram Karapetian officially gave to Council of Europe Secretary General's Special Representative in Armenia Silvia Maria Zehe the Armenian and English variants of his report addressed to PACE connected with his disagreement of principle to the report of the RA NA Ad-hoc Committee on Events Occurred on 2008 1-2 March in Yerevan.

3. Procrastination of protocols ratification by Turkey will lead to adequate attitude of Armenian side, Hovik Abrahamian says [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 10/29/09]

During the October 28 meeting of the National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamian and the European Union's Special Representative to the South Caucasus Peter Semneby, the process of normalizing Armenian-Turkish relations without any preconditions was discussed.

H. Abrahamian reaffirmed the position of the Armenian side on this issue, stressing that the procrastination of the Armenia-Turkey protocols' ratification by Turkey will lead to an adequate attitude of the Armenian side. He underlined that Armenia has not assumed any unilateral obligation in these protocols and it has undertaken this step in order to create the necessary basis for establishing normal relations between the two countries.

As the National Assembly PR Department reported, H. Abrahamian told P. Semneby that if Turkey does not ratify the protocols within a reasonable term, the Armenian side will take the respective adequate steps without delay.

4. High-level interparty meeting of SDHP, RLDP and ARFD takes place in Yerevan [Noyan Tapan, 10/29/09]

A high-level interparty meeting of SDHP, RLDP and ARFD took place on October 28 in Yerevan. Social Democrat Hnchakian Party Central Board Chairman Sedrak Achemian, Ramkavar Liberal-Democratic Party Central Board Chairman Mike Kharapian and ARFD Bureau Representative Hrant Margarian participated in it.

According to the RLDP Press Service, the Armenia-Turkey relations and other issues worrying Armenians were discussed at the meeting held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

5. Armenian Genocide should be only examined at international court, member of National Council of Armenians of Western Armenia considers [Noyan Tapan, 10/29/09]

The Armenian-Turkish protocols signed on October 10 pose much danger for Armenians living in Armenia, as well as abroad. Armenak Abrahamian, a member of the National Council of Armenians of Western Armenia said at an October 29 press conference. In his words, with those protocols Armenia recognizes Turkey's territorial integrity and thus violates the rights of Armenians of Western Armenia. A. Abrahamian rendered it more clear saying that by saying "Armenians of Western Armenia" he means both Armenians currently living in the territory of Turkey and heirs of Western Armenians living in various countries worldwide. He added that the real border of Armenia and Turkey is the border drawn by former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson and not Araks River, which is factually the separating line of Eastern and Western Armenians.

"Today UN has a separate commission on protection of native peoples' rights," A. Abrahamian said. According to him, Western Armenians are considered one of Turkey's native peoples and have a complete right to demand their due from the state having committed a genocide.

A. Abrahamian classed "inadmissible and dangerous" the idea of creating an Armenian-Turkish intergovernmental subcommission. "Discussing the fact of Genocide is a senseless occupation. Genocide is a criminal phenomenon and should be only examined at the international court," he said.



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6. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan visited today National Academy of Sciences [Armenpress, 10/30/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan visited today National Academy of Sciences and accompanied with chairman of the NAS Radik Martirosyan got acquainted with the reconstruction works of the building which kicked off in summer by "Tashir" benevolent foundation. The halls of the building, the offices have been completely reconstructed, the heating system has been changed. R. Martirosyan told the reporters that the initiative of reconstruction of the building belonged to President Serzh Sargsyan.

"We are glad that finally contemporary working conditions have been created for us, we highly assess the initiative of the president. This year the president for the second time visits us which means attention toward science," Radik Martirosyan said.

The chairman of NAS awarded head of president's staff, chairman of "Tashir" benevolent foundation with the NAS memorial medal.

BUSINESS

7. EBRD to provide additional financing of 36.6 million dollars for rehabilitation of Armenian roads [Noyan Tapan, 10/28/09]

The RA National Assembly on October 28 discussed the credit agreement on additional financing of the Lifeline Roads Improvement Project which was signed between the Republic of Armenia and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on 4 September 2009.

The main speaker, RA Minister of Transport and Communication Gurchen Sargsyan said that additional financing of 36.6 million USD will be provided for rehabilitation of a total of 140 km of lifeline roads located in 7 marzes and ensuring connection with highways adjacent to 52 communities. The loan will be given on preferential terms: it has an annual interest rate of 0.79% and is to be repaid in 2019-2034.

According to the minister, the bank's loan makes up 80% of the cost of the indicated project. The remaining 20% or 9.1 million USD will be allocated as co-financing by the Armenian government. The project's closing date is 2011. It is envisaged rehabilitating roads of 41.53 km in Syunik, Kotayk, and Gegharkunik Marzes (Provinces) this year, and another 100 km will be rehabilitated in 2010.

DIASPORA

8. Yuri Avetisian: YSU Diaspora studies chair may become center of Diaspora studies [Noyan Tapan, 10/28/09]

The Chair of Diaspora Studies was founded at the Philological Department of Yerevan State University (YSU) last academic year. This year 11 graduates of various departments of YSU and other universities are enrolled in the program leading to the degree of Master in "Diaspora Studies". During a talk with Noyan Tapan correspondent, Professor Yuri Avetisian, the head of YSU Diaspora Studies Chair, Doctor of Philology said that the impression is that "the process comes up to expectations". According to him, Diaspora studies are still specialization in the system of the Philological Department, but "there are ambitious plans to form a separate speciality", which may be fulfilled this year. "The Chair of Diaspora Studies is a novelty in Armenia's educational system: there is an intention to open a unit on its basis and then to turn it into a center of Diaspora studies, most likely, an inter-university center, but this will take time," Y. Avetisian noted.

The newly-established Chair has its problems in need of solution, first of all, the problem of specialists: it is necessary to replenish the teaching staff with Diaspora experts. "Our programs are quite diverse and include literature, language, history, culture, and psychology," the head of the Chair explained, adding: "For example, we offer a special course on psychological peculiarities of the preservation of national identity in Diaspora communities. To teach this subject, we have managed to find a good expert who deals with this problem". Yuri Avetisian said they have already reached preliminary agreements to invite lecturers from the Diaspora for at least 2-3 months in the next half of the year. In particular, there is an agreement to invite Karo Arakelian, an expert on Western Armenian, from Beirut. "There is hope that next year he will be able to come for at least one-two months and teach our students of the Master's degree program," Y. Avetisian said, attaching special importance to the establishment of closer links with the Diaspora and the organization of mutual visits. In his opinion, a specialist with a



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Master's degree should visit, at least once or twice, the Diaspora and stay in touch with Diaspora Armenian communities.

Y. Avetisian described the Diaspora as "multilayer", stressing the need to study the psychology, lifestyle, and mentality of the Diaspora Armenians. "We do not resemble each other very much and for that reason we take different views on many issues," he said.

He also told about a project envisaging a bit more advanced study of Western Armenian at comprehensive schools in Armenia. Work in this direction is also being done at YSU Philological Department where a group specialized in Western Armenian has been set up. The group's students study Western Armenian and literature in Western Armenian in greater depth. "We think that later we will have an opportunity to turn this group into a section of Diaspora studies, which will offer Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Thus the continuity of education will be ensured: school, a Bachelor's degree program (for those willing to study the history of Diaspora colonies, Armenian literature, Western Armenian language and culture), and a Master's degree program to prepare strictly specialized experts. Now we have to just introduce students from other universities to Western Armenian," the head of the Chair noted.

As regards the development of contacts with foreign educational institutions, Y. Avetisian said: "Our greatest hope is the RA Ministry of Diaspora and Minister Hranush Hakobian, who played a significant role in opening of our Chair and who will serve as a bridge between our specialists and those from the Diaspora. Certain steps have already been taken in this respect, with meetings held". It was mentioned that the RA Ministry of Diaspora pays for education of 6 students, and it is expected that in the future, the ministry will help them find jobs both in Homeland and Diaspora Armenian colonies.

ARTS

9. The exhibition of the lecturers of Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts opened today [Armenpress, 10/29/09]

The exhibition of Painting Chair's lecturers of Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts (YSFA) opened today in "Albert and Tove Boyajyan" exhibition hall. The lecturers presented three works. YSAFA Rector Aram Isabekyan considered the exhibition very interesting and responsible. "The exhibition is interesting because all the lecturers of the Painting Chair present new and unknown works, and it is responsible because the students see who teach them. Each painter has come forward with a unique character, vivid imagination and with the experience of many years".

Participant of the exhibition, painter Khachatur Azizyan expressed gratification that the lecturers came forward with a joint exhibition. The exhibition does not have a common heading, but the paintings, according to him, share the common thematic.

"First of all love dominates in my works. I do not agree with the art figures, according to who there is a fight in every painting. I think that the paintings convey the content of the painter's soul", he said. The complicated compositions comprise a prevailing majority among the paintings of another exhibition-participant, Vilik Zakaryan. "There are different kinds of compositions among my works, and there is not a thematic restriction. They are painted with both mythological and up-to-date motives. I hope that visitors will really like them".

10. "Vahan Tekeyan" annual award ceremony announced [Azg, 10/29/09]

Today in Tekeyan Cultural Union of Armenia the start of "Vahan Tekeyan" annual award ceremony was announced in the following 9 nominations; literature, music, painting, radio and television, best publication in "Azg" daily, works written for pupils and children, social-political satire, sculpture and theater. The applications will be admitted from October 30 till December 15. The presented works must have been created in 2008. The winners will be given 1000 USD equivalent AMD.

According to the assessment of Chairman of the union Ruben Mirzakhanyan, the award-giving ceremony has acquired a new quality from the viewpoint of its geography; in the recent years Armenians living in different countries of the world have submitted applications and their number surpasses 300.

According to R. Mirzakhanyan, today Tekeyan Cultural Union has its unique place in Armenia thanks to its activity. He said that in 2010 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the union's establishment a book will be published, in which the biography and activity of the union's award-winners will be presented. R. Mirzakhanyan wished good luck to the future participants and noted that the names of the winners will be known in January, next year.



SOCIAL

11. Editor of “The Armenian Reporter” weekly says strengthening of Armenia will have a positive impact also on Diaspora [Aravot, 10/29/09]

American-Armenian community is against the Armenian-Turkish protocols, but it does not mean that they are not for the normalization of relations between the two countries, Emil Sanamyan, editor of “The Armenian Reporter” English-language weekly published in Washington, told today to reporters.

According to him, the majority of American-Armenians have a negative attitude toward the protocols, and the part of them finds that if the opening of the borders is positive for Armenia, on the whole it is good for all the Armenians. According to them, the strengthening of Armenia will have a positive impact on Diaspora as well. E. Sanamyan noted that USA uses the regulation process of Armenian-Turkish relations as a pretext of not recognizing the Armenian Genocide. According to him, Turkey seeks to enlarge its role in the region, as well as to become a link between USA and Iran.

Referring to the Azerbaijani position on regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations, E. Sanamyan noted that it is strange but Azerbaijan assists this process to some extent. “The response of Azerbaijan has annoyed Turkish authorities to some degree. Azerbaijan, appearing to be the younger brother, uses the style of its elder brother – threats”, the editor said. According to him, Azerbaijan does not like that Armenia tries to impose something on Turkey. “It is not so that Azerbaijan does not play any role in this process, but for Turkey its profits are of primary importance taking into consideration its relations with USA, EU and Russia. Turkey brings Azerbaijan as an excuse not to move forward in this process”, E. Sanamyan underscored.

The weekly has been issued in USA since 1967 in New York and New Jersey, and now – also in California. According to Director General of the weekly Vincent Lima, the chief editing house of the newspaper has been moved to Yerevan on purpose of giving a more operative response to Armenian events. Approaches of different sides are presented in the issues referred in the newspaper.

Since October, 2009 the weekly has been published also in Armenia.

12. About 100 cardiologists from different countries of the world to participate in Euro Caucasian forum of cardiologists [Armenpress, 10/29/09]

Euro Caucasian forum of Cardiologists will be conducted October 29-30 in Yerevan, with the participation of 100 cardiologists from different countries of the world (Armenia, Russia, France, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Israel, Lebanon, etc). The event is organized on the initiative of Armenian Diaspora Ministry and “Action Health Armenia-France” agency, sponsored by RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan.

Media and Information Department of Armenian Diaspora Ministry told Armenpress that the goal of the forum is to reveal and to assemble the potential of Armenian cardiologists over the world on purpose of the health care of Armenian people and development of medicine in Armenia.

The organizers anticipate that the forum will promote the cooperation of Armenian and Diaspora cardiologists, as well as the improvement of professional skills and exchange of up-to-date approaches, and will convey a new quality to the further cooperation of cardiologists.

13. Yerevan Mayor receives the guests of “SunChild” second international nature protection festival [Armenpress, 10/29/09]

Yerevan Mayor Gagik Beglaryan received today the guests of “SunChild” second international nature protection festival. Media and press relations department of Yerevan municipality told Armenpress that highly assessing the steps undertaken by NGOs and intellectuals toward the solution of nature protection issues Yerevan mayor expressed hope that the festival will promote the enrichment of Yerevan people’s knowledge on the situation.

During the conversation with the guests Yerevan mayor noted that though our country has accepted the Orhus Convention concerning the protection of the surrounding environment, the society’s attention in regard to nature protection issues, as well as in regard to the process of making decisions on them is not sufficient.

As the continuous project on enlarging the green areas in the capital is in the center of attention of the municipality, Mayor Gagik Beglaryan attached great importance to the cooperation with “Fund of Protection of Wild Nature and Cultural values”, member of “SunChild” organizing group; proposals have already been put forward, the implementation of which, as well as the cooperation with the organization



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will promote that in parallel to greening, the population regards the protection of the surrounding environment more soft-heartedly and carefully.

The organizing committee of "SunChild" festival handed a diploma to Yerevan mayor for supporting the event. The diploma was made from processed trashes. Prospective projects on the procession of trashes are already in the discussion process at Yerevan municipality, which will promote the solution of a number of urban issues, including the garbage removal.

14. A week devoted to the 100th year of Adana Massacre kicked in Anthelias [Armenpress, 10/29/09]

A week devoted to the 100th year of Adana massacres kicked off October 28 at Mayravank of Anthelias under the high patronage of Catholicos of Cilicia Aram I. An official from the Catholicosate told Armenpress that a cross-stone devoted to that event was opened by His Holiness in the territory of Mayravank with the participation of the members of brotherhood, representatives of Armenian Evangelical Churches, state and public figures. The united Armenians performed a divine liturgy.

Afterward an exhibition of documentary photos presenting the massacre opened in "Kjulpenkyan" hall of "Cilicia" museum, where about 60 photos from the archives of the Catholicosate of Mother See of Cilicia, of Armenian Genocide Museum and from other archives were presented.

His Holiness spoke about Adana massacre as about the preparation for the Genocide 1915, underscoring that neither the previous, nor the coming years will "become obstacles to reach to justice, to demand a payment from Turkey.

SPORTS

15. Armenian chess players – leaders of European Team Championship [Armenpress, 10/29/09]

In the seventh round of European Team Championship held in Serbian town of Novi Sad Armenian men chess team won the leader of the match –Azerbaijani team, by 2, 5:0, 5 score.

Gabriel Sargsyan managed to defeat Gadir Huseinov, and Levon Aronyan – Teymur Rajabov, Vladimir Hakobyan – Vugar Gashimov, Tigran Petrosyan – Shahriyar Mamedyarov games ended in a draw.

After this round the Armenian chess players share 1-3rd places with Russian and Azerbaijani teams with 11 points. By additional standards the Russian team occupies the first place, the Armenian and Azerbaijani teams - second and third places respectively.

Armenian women chess team has conducted its regular match with the Rumanian team and won by 3, 5:0, 5 score. Elina Danielyan took a victory over Elena Kosma, Lilit Mkrtychyan – over Korina-Isabella Peptan, Lilit Galoyan – over Carmen Voyta and Nelly Ahinyan played draw with Alina Motok.

Armenian women chess players with 10 points occupy the third place. The Russian and Georgian teams share the first and second places with 12 points.

Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

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